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TOWN NEWS

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Center gets grant for mother, infant care

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MIDDLETOWN — The Community Health Center has received another grant for its planned care center for mothers and infants.

Friday, the State Bond Commission approved a \$200,000 grant for renovations to 643 Main St., a building formerly occupied by The Courant. The Community Health Center earlier received a \$125,000 Community Development Block Grant from the city to buy the property.

"We're very pleased," Mark Masselli, center executive director, said about news of the grant. Renovations are expected to cost \$237,708, according to bond commis-

sion documents. The grant means the health center will pay only \$37,708.

The mother and infant care center will provide childbirth education, counseling and case management, lactation education, nutrition counseling and newborn care.

"It's an education center," Masselli said. "We have a medical facility already; this is not that."

First, though, the center has to buy the building, which has become the new home of Deliverance Haven Church.

The church, formerly located in the Arrivani Hotel, conducted its first service Dec. 4 in the new building. The Rev. Marnie Gallaher, church pastor, said the church has entered into a short-

term lease for the building and has hopes to buy it.

Masselli said the Community Health Center's plans for the building remain unchanged.

"We hope to purchase it in the new year," he said. "We're awaiting foreclosure on the building by the bank."

A limited partnership called Silk Pursue Associates owns 643 Main St. Foreclosure proceedings were initiated earlier this year by Farmers & Mechanics Savings Bank, which gave the partnership a \$300,000 mortgage in 1987.

Masselli said the health center's intentions for the property have been known for some time and should not have come as a surprise.

"We remain committed to bringing a good maternal and infant care program there," he said.

Masselli would not theorize about the future.

"It's very premature to talk about a building we don't own," he said. "Assure we end up buying the building, our position would be to buy the building vacant."

Gallaher would not comment Monday.

Michael Galonska, the bank's chief lending officer, said he didn't know of any agreement between the church and Silk Pursue Associates for the space. But he said any agreement probably would be subordinate to the bank's mortgage.

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