

Meeting Notes
Behavioral Health Workgroup
March 19, 2014
8:30-9:45 AM
Historic Colored High School

In Attendance: Rod Bourn, Mimi Cooper, Shawn Dundon, Stacy Fair, Debbie Gebhardt, Stacy Fair, Terry Farrell, Alison Miller Imhoff, Bari Klein, Steve Lentowski, Sue Lichtfuss, Sharon Lipford, Gabrielle Manske, Christine McPheerson, Paula Nash, Joe Ryan, Posie Thompson, Brendan Welsh, Sandy Wiley

The meeting was called to order at 8:35, and Sharon Lipford, Chair, welcomed participants.

Sharon Lipford shared that Dr. Ingvild Olsen was interviewed by Susan Kelly on public health matters. This video will be on the website and will be broadcast on Harford Cable Network.

Beth Jones with Harford County Health Department Addiction Services had a meeting recently at the Detention Center to discuss the administration of Vivitrol at the jail. It would be administered seven days prior to a client's discharge and then Level One services with Dr. Julie Stancliff at Addiction Services after discharge would be required. Vivitrol inhibits alcohol and opioid use. There is a multiagency work group to discuss better discharge and aftercare services.

The Primary Care Workgroup Outreach Suicide Risk and Recognition training will be held on Friday March 24, 2014. There are over fifty professionals attending and nine medical practices represented. Sandy Wiley was introduced as the Physician Liaison for this project and she will be following up with doctors who attended the webinar and with other primary care physicians in the community to increase their recognition and intervention with patients with suicide risk.

Terry Farrell shared that the emergency department collaboration continues as does Behavioral Health integration. BH legislation is ongoing. There is now a Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health and a Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities with MHA. Discussion continues regarding the merge of Mental Health and Addictions Services this year. Then there will be a new council at the time of the next legislative session. Budgets were merged operationally January 1, 2014 and a combined budget will be prepared for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2014. Additionally, the ASO contract is up for renewal. Currently Value Options is the ASO for Medical Assistance. The deadline for bids has been extended to April 4, 2014 although there have been several bidders so far. It is hoped that there will be a decision by the end of May.

There were no cuts made to the mental health budget this legislative session but 2.8 million dollars were cut to alcohol and drug abuse treatment. There are talks underway regarding reinstating these cuts. Terry Farrell also mentioned that the application for an outpatient mental health clinic designation for the Harford County Health Department is underway and he expects the application to be submitted within a week or two. Terry also reported that the Office of Mental Health is working with implementation of Data Link. Data Link is a program that when individuals are arrested, Public Safety personnel will notify Value Options who will send information that the individual is in mental health care, to the Detention Center and to the Office

of Mental Health for follow-up. The point of this information sharing is to connect the client and community provider to the individual during and after an arrest. Terry also introduced Sue Lichtfuss as the new director of the Mobile Crisis Team. Ms. Lichtfuss has a background with Sheppard Pratt and in crisis management. There will be an educational night offered by Mobile Crisis on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 regarding anger management and fifteen people have signed up. Mobile Crisis hours have expanded to sixteen hours over the weekend and the goal is for Mobile Crisis team to be available from 8:00 am to midnight seven days a week.

Shawn Dundon from the CIT discussed the semi-annual Sheriff Office CIT training in April 2014. Mr. Dundon will be working on an in-service program to increase suicidal awareness and stress management for Sheriff Officers, Deputies and staff as continuing education. The CISM model is emphasized and he is planning twenty-four in-service sessions. Mr. Dundon also reported that there will be three regional CIT forums in the future. The Governor's Office of Crime Control will reach out to all policing agencies and as Harford County is an experienced leader and trainer will take a lead. Mr. Dundon reported that every county recently received CIT funds and local jurisdictions will be able to use that money as they see fit. Mental Health First Aid will also be offered.

Joe Ryan from the Office of Drug Control Policy reported that a Drug Take Back Day will be held on April 26, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at three locations in Harford County. A flyer was distributed. Mr. Ryan reports that Harford County leads the state of Maryland in the number of drugs taken. Since 2010, 11,500 pounds have been received during Drug Take Back Days and over 3,300 citizens have participated. Mr. Ryan reports that the DEA is curious if the numbers will stay high since the permanent drug take back box at the Benson Barracks is open. Additionally, on the second Tuesday of every month the Sheriff Office is available at a local firehouse with information and the ability to take back prescription drugs. CTY announcements are localized and at the Bel Air Fire House, there were 210 people in attendance. Mr. Ryan was asked about narcotic prescriptions and recent problems about filling prescriptions. He states "pharmacies may be reluctant or cautious to fill or keep narcotics in inventory because of the crime issues."

In partnership with the Harford County Sheriff's Office, the Office of Drug Control Policy held a Facebook education evening on February 26, 2014 with the topic of Drugs in the Community. Mr. Ryan reports this was the most interactive session the Sheriff's Office has had doing these Facebook on-line chats. There were forty-seven questions in sixty-two minutes and they were legitimate questions seeking information. Mr. Ryan felt that this was a great way to communicate and noted that within twenty-four hours after the live Facebook chat over sixteen thousand people had viewed the Facebook page. There is a possibility in May of discussing underage drinking during one of the Facebook chats.

Mr. Ryan reports that there is a change in the drug and mental health court program. Mr. Charlie Hamilton, the coordinator, is retiring. There will be a job posting for this position by next week. It will be twenty-nine hours weekly. Mr. Ryan is meeting with the judges to reassess the program and the coordination to improve quality.

The annual Office of Control Drug Policy Drug Symposium will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at Bel Air High School. This is a free event. The 'save the date' cards have gone out and registration will be available on May 1, 2013. The Symposium is looking for speakers and already there are thirty-five vendors. CEU's are available.

Sharon Lipford discussed the Homeless Point In Time count results, which was held the last week in January. Two hundred and twenty three homeless were counted in Harford County. Because of extreme weather, twenty-four homeless individuals were housed in emergency motel placements by Fishers of Men. Six were still found through outreach on the street. This means there are thirty chronic homeless people living on the street. There seems to be a cluster living in Bel Air and a cluster off Route 40 between Edgewood and Aberdeen. There were seven homeless seniors age 60 and above counted. The homeless in Harford County are disproportionally black and disproportionally male. There is a new law enforcement initiative where police who come across homeless after hours will coordinate with the Office on Mental Health. An idea was floated to cross-reference Health Care for the Homeless and a discussion was held regarding mental health and substance abuse issues with regard to homeless individuals, in particular whether undiagnosed mental health issues or untreated mental health issues are the root of the problems.

Agenda Item #12: Open discussion. Rod Bourn from Harford Community College discussed a geriatric program at the college. A trauma institute, an all day workshop, will be held November 7, 2014 at the Church of the Nazarene and more information will be available closer to the date. Sharon Lipford continues to train mental health first aid. The Harford County Health Department will be holding a focus group regarding minority access and issues regarding the services at the Health Department on March 20, 2014, and space is still available. This will be held at the Chesapeake Center. Bonnie Prater discussed a program offered by NAMI, National Association of Mental Illness, which is a family education program. It will be held for twelve weeks, three hours at a time, and will start back up in the fall. Gabrielle Manske from Upper Bay shared that they will be hold a Spring Fling to benefit their children's programs on March 28, 2014 at the Bayou and tickets are fifty dollars apiece. You may call Upper Bay for tickets.

The next meeting for the Behavioral Health Subcommittee will be held in June. Sharon Lipford will send out details of the date and time as soon as they are available.