



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Harford County
Health Department



MHAAC, LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes | January 28, 2020 | 8:00-10:00 AM

Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Bunch welcomed the members and led introductions. There was no old business to address at this meeting.

- Mary asked that MHAAC appointees return their applications to Shelby Graves:
Shelby.graves@maryland.gov
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved by the group.
- Please update your email address on the sign-in sheet, check your spam inbox for messages from Shelby Graves, and reach out if you are not consistently receiving MHAAC emails.

Updates

Dr. Russell Moy reminded attendees that the Joint Meeting serves as a place for the MHAAC, Behavioral Health LHIC, and OIT to meet in one space.

- **Health Officer Report- Dr. Russell Moy**
 - Harford County has experienced a 32% reduction in opioid deaths when compared to the same period of time in 2018.
 - Dr. Moy shared updates regarding the recent outbreak of Coronavirus. The virus was reported to WHO on December 31, 2019. This virus typically causes a mild to moderate upper respiratory infection that looks like the common cold. In severe cases it can lead to pneumonia or death. Approximately 4,500 cases had been reported, the majority in China. At the time, five cases were confirmed in the U.S. with no deaths and zero cases in Maryland. The public health threat is low, but preventive measures and screening protocols have been put into place to mitigate risk.
 - Dr. Aliya Jones is the new Deputy Secretary of the Behavioral Health Administration at the State. BHA continues to undergo structural changes.
 - The Chief of the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office, Dr. David Fowler, has retired. Dr. Fowler led efforts to ensure data, specifically overdose death data, was as recent as possible and available for use.
- **Emergency Services- John Richter**
 - Volunteer EMS/Fire Services have given out approximately 20 Narcan Leave Behind packages from HCHD. They will continue to give them out from each of the trucks in the county. Many of the families have been very receptive to this practice.

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Bel Air, MD 21014
410-877-2340

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Department of Community Services - ODCP
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- **Core Service Agency- Jess Kraus**
 - There has been a change with the administrative service organization (ASO), which is now Optum. This has been a challenging transition. Please contact the CSA or the LAA with questions or issues adjusting to this new system.
 - Secretary Neil announced they would be providing estimate bridge payments to providers based on 2019 claims. Any provider that has not submitted 2019 claims can receive assistance from the CSA or the LAA. This has created a financial burden for many providers, but their office is still encouraging providers to serve as many individuals as possible.
 - The CSA is looking for providers for three services. Details are available on the CSA website: http://harfordmentalhealth.org/news_and_events
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**
 - Tara shared highlights from 2019:
 - ODCP's partnership with the Sheriff's Office continues with the Pledge Program, 3rd-5th grade.
 - Judge Mahoney oversees Adult Drug Court and the program is looking to expand.
 - The Harford Talks Campaign was successful and included social media, billboard, movie theater PSAs, and the website. They will update this site to include sections for youth in 2020.
 - The office is developing veteran resources and increasing peer supports.
 - In 2020:
 - The Pledge Program will take place again in March and May.
 - The Tackling Youth Challenges Program will begin, which works with PTAs to educate partners, including cyberbullying and mental health.
 - ODCP's 16th Annual Symposium will take place in July.
 - The Re-Entry Job Fair will take place in June, which is the first ever resource and recovery fair in Harford County.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Pam Llewellyn**
 - Pam spoke to the importance of reaching youth and their families in the county and gave additional updates regarding the Crisis Center.
 - UMUCH regularly participates in health fairs, particularly those with youth in the county. If anyone has resources or services for families, please reach out to the schools in order to participate.
 - Recent numbers for the Crisis Center: In the first six months, they had over 1,500 visits for walk-in services; Approximately 10% of visits were young children, with the youngest being 5 years old; The average length of stay is about 3 hours; Residential has served over 130 guests; Average age for walk-in an residential services is 35-40 years; The majority of SUD diagnosis has been related to alcohol use, but they still see a significant number of opioid use disorders;
 - Referrals to the Crisis Center have primarily been through primary care providers, family members, and through social media
 - CareFirst will be covering residential services, and Cigna will begin covering residential beds in February
 - Lessons learned: Anyone with severe withdrawal is sent to stabilization before treatment; People in the community do not know what "substance use" means, so they are using the term "addiction" to meet people where they are in the community; They also use "depression, anxiety, and addiction issues" when talking about mental/behavioral health in the community; The word "crisis" is

- confusing for the public, so they are conducting a lot of education about not waiting until it's to the point of severe crisis to come into the center.
 - UMUCH is still awaiting word from the state on the certificate of need for the Aberdeen campus.
 - Rod Kornrumpf is transitioning to a new position with Sheppard Pratt to launch behavioral health services for hospital systems that do not have them.
- Dr. Moy commented that Harford County is ahead of the curve with the establishment of the state of the art Klein Family Harford Crisis Center and reminded everyone to promote 1-800-NEXT-STEP.
- **Behavioral Health – Andrea Pappas**
 - Andrea gave updates on new pilot programs and on-going treatment efforts within the Bureau of Behavioral Health, such as ongoing partnership with the Public Defender's Office.
 - The new START program with Department of Social Services is underway.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Shawn shared updated about changes with local providers, numbers served, and new funding opportunities available in Harford County.
 - Shawn also shared overdose numbers, stating that 4 overdose deaths occurred in Harford County in January, 2020.
- **The Harford County Sheriff's Office – Captain Carl Brooks**
 - The Hope Trailer has been very successful and received recognition throughout the county and surrounding areas.
 - The rate of opioid deaths has fallen in the county.

Community Announcements

- Jessica Lahey, author of the Gift of Failure, will be speaking to Harford County families on March 12th. This event is hosted by Harford County Government: <https://harfordcountymd.gov/2801/The-Gift-of-Failure>
- Families Strong is still seeking family members to participate in group sessions February 26th – April 22nd. More details can be found here: <https://www.healthyharford.org/event/families-strong-supporting-families-of-individuals-with-substance-use-disorders>
- The Bergand Group is becoming an OMHC. They currently have Nurse Practitioners on staff and are currently being credentialed for therapists. They see youth and adults and can usually have someone seen within two weeks.
- Rick Ayers commented that his office has received a lot of questions about the Coronavirus. His office is implementing a special screening tool, specifically for 911 calls, for these types of pandemics.
- Councilman Wagner asked the group for their comments, suggestions, and other ideas regarding putting pressure on the state to address younger people with mental health disorders and with SUD.
 - The group discussed the limited existing options, confirmed the need for youth mental and behavioral health services, and called for the collection of data.
 - Dr. Moy followed up on the parallels between the establishment of the Crisis Center and what needs to or could be done with youth mental and behavioral health in the county. He suggested that a unique and innovative idea implemented in a community like Harford County could receive attention from the state, as they are searching for solutions to these problems across Maryland.

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Special Topic

Jennifer Redding, Deputy Chief of Client Services for Family and Children's Services, was joined by Chief Moore, Bel Air Police Department, to discuss the Harford County LEAD Program.

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is an evidence-based diversion program.
- The team shared details about how the program diverts low level, non-violent offenders from entry into the criminal justice system through case management and social support methods. The program has demonstrated success in pilot cities (Seattle and Sante Fe) and has thus far demonstrated success in Harford County.
- The presentation will be sent out to the group along with the minutes.
- Contact: jredding@fcsmd.org

Strategic Planning

- Jessica Kraus of the CSA, Shawn Martin of the LAA, and Shelby Graves of the Harford County Health Department shared annual and strategic plan outlines with the group.
- *Goals from the CSA's Annual Plan:*
 - Goal #1: Planning & Data-Driven Decision Making (data analysis, community needs assessment, network adequacy, program outcomes)
 - Goal #2: Quality (provider training, client experience, complaints, performance improvement, licensing and credentialing)
 - Goal #3: Public Outreach, Individual, & Family Education (messaging, communication, feedback)
 - Goal #4: Stakeholder Collaboration (with providers of behavioral health, somatic care, community services, & other partners)
- *Goals from the LAA's Annual Plan:*
 - Goal #1: Foster a Comprehensive and Quality Recovery Oriented and Integrated Behavioral Health System of Care.
 - Goal #2: Support access to behavioral health treatment and recovery support services throughout the continuum of care
 - Goal #3: Harford County's Local Addictions Authority will streamline its workflow and processes in order to better serve local providers and Harford County residents.
- *Goals from the MHAAC/LHIC/OIT joint strategic plan:*
 - Goal #1: Utilize SUD prevention and treatment strategies to reduce overdose deaths to no more than 30 deaths per 100,000 population.
 - Goal #2: Reduce the rate of suicide to no more than 9.0 per 100,000 population.
 - Goal #3: Reduce the number of students reporting feeling sad or helpless to no more than 25% across all grade levels surveyed.
 - Goal #4: Integrate and improve behavioral health services throughout Harford County.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 31st
- May 26th

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