



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



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



MHAAC, LHC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT Joint Meeting Meeting Minutes | September 24, 2019 | 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.

Special Topics

Mary introduced the speakers for the special topics section of the meeting.

- **Emergency Services:** Tami Wiggins spoke on behalf of Edward Hopkins, Director of Harford County Department of Emergency Services.
 - Tami gave an update on opioid overdose preparation and training with local EMS. Currently, four locations (Level, Aberdeen, Abindgon, and Darlington) have signed MOUs for the Narcan Leave Behind program. Emergency Services continues to encourage the remaining locations to implement the program.
- **Emergency Services:** Sam Sauers, also from Emergency Services, shared a case study with the members and asked for feedback.
 - EMS has received an influx of calls from one male community member struggling with substance use disorder. This individual previously called EMS more than 70 times in one year. He went through the judicial system and made progress in recovery, disappearing from EMS's radar for five months, only to return with the same volume of calls. He has presented as a danger to himself and to others, to the point of threatening EMS responders with a knife. Sam asked for feedback from the group to connect this community member to services, to protect his family members, and to protect EMS responders.
- **Crisis Hotline:** Michael Clancy of Affiliated Santé Group provided an update on the Harford Crisis line and local utilization of the state's 211 system.
 - When calling the state's 211-1 line, calls are directed to Grass Roots, which are then directed to ASG via a three way transfer process. Only 20% of calls to 211 have been related to behavioral health. There have been issues for those in the Northern part of HC or those with out-of-state numbers reaching the appropriate resource when utilizing the 211 system. For this reason, the 1-800-NEXT-STEP line is still promoted as the quickest and most efficient way to connect with the Crisis

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Line. A report over the previous year's calls will be released in December, 2019. Michael also reported that they are in the process of adding a school intervention specialist to the team and that this feature will soon be available through ASG.

Updates

- **Health Officer Report- Dr. Russell Moy**
 - Dr. Moy revisited the history of the MHAAC, LHIC, OIT Joint Coalition Meetings.
 - The Mental Health & Addictions Advisory Council (MHAAC) is required by legislation and membership is determined by current members and an application process through Harford County Government. The LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup is part of the Maryland State Health Improvement Process (SHIP). The Opioid Intervention Team is an essential component of reducing opioid overdose and is required by Maryland's Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC). These three groups were brought together in an effort to streamline the process of achieving behavioral health objectives throughout Harford County.
 - Dr. Moy reviewed data and gave the group an update as to where Harford County stands in facing the opioid and overdose crisis.
 - In 2018, the county experienced its first decline in opioid deaths in over a decade (3%). When compared to the first six months of 2018, the first six months of 2019 show a decrease of approximately 17%. This is better than the state's average of 11% for the same period.
 - Dr. Moy gave an update on the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC).
 - The Ribbon cutting took place in May, which coincided with a visit from the OCCC team. The OCCC reported that Harford County has exceptional programs in place, with few gaps in service delivery.
 - Dr. Moy gave an update on funding for mental and behavioral health initiatives within the county.
 - Maryland is expecting to receive federal SOR funding for the next year. Harford County received over \$1,000,000 in funding, which went to the planning and implementation of the KFHCC. In Fiscal Year 2018 Governor Hogan promised \$50,000,000 in funding for the OCCC over a five year time period. For Fiscal Year 2020, Harford County is expected to receive \$461,000 of funding for these efforts. He noted that funding streams can be confusing to providers/applicants, which is why the process should be outlined and relayed clearly to those applying for funding within the county.
 - A series of educational opportunities and presentations will be offered to the county from the state and from the OCCC. Those that wish to receive information regarding these opportunities can be included in the MHAAC/LHIC/OIT Special Events mailing list.
 - MHAAC membership must be confirmed by appointees and approved by Harford County Government, so it is important for those nominated to confirm their

membership with Mary Bunch and Shelby Graves. See contact details within email and below.

- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**

- Jessica shared several upcoming events with Core Service Agency, as well as several on-going projects for mental health through the agency.
 - *The Outpatient Civil Commitment Pilot Program* in Baltimore City is zero cost to participants and accepts any form of insurance. They accept those currently hospitalized for treatment that also have a history of prior hospitalization. Participants must live in or be homeless in Baltimore City to participate.
 - *The Homeless ID Project & Consumer Support Program* can provide funding for birth certificates and other forms of identification for those currently experiencing homelessness. Applications can be found at: <http://www.harfordmentalhealth.org/>
 - The *Out of the Darkness Walk* will take place in October.
 - The third *Life Matters Suicide Prevention conference* will take place on May 8th, 2019. The keynote speaker will be NFL receiver Brand Marshall, who will speak on mental health.

- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**

- Tara shared details about Recovery Month in Harford County, as well as the Pledge Program.
 - September is *Recovery Month* and many events have taken place, such as: Light Up Main; Signs and banners posted in government offices and partnering agency offices; Painted recovery rocks; Wear Purple for Recovery Day; Purple Ribbons; Social media posts; and a video of community partners singing in support of recovery.
 - The *Pledge Program* with the Sheriff's Office will begin this year's program with 3-5th grade students after school. The first school of the year will be Abingdon Elementary.
 - The *Second Chance Job Resource Fair* is coming up to provide community members with new opportunities for securing work.

- **UMUCH/Crisis Center - Rod Kornrumpf**

- Rod gave an update on the KFHC's progress since the ribbon cutting in May.
 - The Center's OP program has been up and running and is serving as a bridge or transition program for clients between crisis/stabilization and finding an appropriate fit with community providers.
 - In June, the walk-in urgent center officially opened its door. Recruitment for the urgent center is still on-going.
 - In August, the Center expanded its hours to 24/7 coverage- and has seen more than 500 clients since.
 - In September, the residential program opened within the Center, and they have seen 17 clients since.

- The Center has seen a payer mix and has had less MA clients than originally expected. They are currently in negotiations with payers.
 - Those in Aberdeen and Havre De Grace are still utilizing the emergency department for mental and behavioral health, due to proximity and transportation barriers.
 - The Center received Joint Commission Accreditation in September
 - Pam shared that they are reviewing legislation for emergency petitions.
- **Behavioral Health – Andrea Pappas**
 - Andrea gave updates on new pilot programs and on-going treatment efforts within the Bureau of Behavioral Health.
 - In July, a program was implemented with the Public Defender’s Office. Social Workers will conduct assessments with inmates and develop a recovery-oriented plan, utilizing peer recovering specialists.
 - The START Family Mentor was hired with DSS in September. The ultimate goal is for the Mentor to engage families in treatment.
 - Four new peers have been hired, two of which are now embedded within the Detention Center.
 - Between April and September, 40 assessments were conducted through the Vivitrol program within the Detention Center. 10 of these clients followed-up with HCHD upon their release.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Shawn shared updated about Naloxone and the Maryland Recovery Network.
 - MDH has requested that their new video on how to administer Naloxone be embedded in local websites for Naloxone services.
 - Naloxone Toolkit:
 - https://howtoadministernaloxone.maryland.gov/en/index.html?utm_iden tifier=&utm_campaign=mhdsecemail&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=76482994&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8OUv X HFYUj-FwPt6 2Lf ajugAgc8mWRXDU5ZsiboYmOFgb7DMLSt2xS6FVNlppgShmGFo RxQ68yAse4xY4CS9AkIz7RB CC-u4 VxylzMrSzrU&hsmi=76482994
 - The Maryland Recovery Network can provided funding for individuals to enter certified recovery residences, both within and outside of Harford County. They can also supply clothing, hygiene, and other household supplies in certain cases.
 - Maryland Recovery Network:
 - <https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Maryland-RecoveryNet.aspx>
 - For more information: Steve Bergey, 410-877-2342, steven.bergey@maryland.gov
- **Harford County Sheriff's Office- Cpt. Carl Brooks**
 - Cpt. Brooks gave an update on where the county stands for overdoses and Narcan use for 2019. Overdoses have gone down, while Narcan use has remained stable. They have seen 312 overdoses, but 46 of these were repeat overdoses for 12 individual community members.

Community Announcements

- New Day Wellness is hosting CCAR Recovery Coaching Training on October 4th. To register or for more details, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ccar-recovery-coach-academy-training-at-new-day-tickets-73437039161>
- New Day Wellness is hosting a community open house from 1:00-3:00pm on Sunday, October 6th. Those interested may contact Jose Rosado at: jrosado@newdaywellness.org
- Addictions Connection Resource will be providing CCAR training October 9th- 10th
- Harford County Public Schools is hosting a Stop the Stigma Night on October 10th, which they hope to make an annual event.

Q&A

- Councilman Wagner asked the group whether we are on the decline for opioid use in Harford County.
 - Dr. Moy responded that we are on a decline for overdoses, but without more information, it can be difficult to determine what actual rates of use are within the county. He stated that we need more time to determine these trends and deferred to those who are currently working in prevention. The first priority was to reduce deaths, which the county seems to be making significant progress on. Tara Lathrop shared the many educational and communications efforts that are taking place in the county to prevent use and to engage community members in treatment. Additional members commented on the importance of early education and intervention, as well as engaging those with SUD in treatment in order to reduce rates of use and overdose within the county.
- Councilman Wagner asked about the recent vaping deaths within Maryland.
 - Dr. Moy responded that the experts have not been able to pinion the exact cause of the sudden lung illnesses and deaths. He stated that teen vaping is an epidemic and that no amount of vaping is healthy for adolescents. He also stressed the importance of prevention and education within the county. Tobacco 21 will go into effect in October, which will hopefully make it more difficult for youth to access these electronic smoking devices and related products.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 26th
- January 28th
- March 31st
- May 26th

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