



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



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



MHAAC, LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes | November 26, 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.

Updates

Dr. Russell Moy led the Updates portion of the meeting and announced minor changes to the agenda. Two guest updates would take place and the community announcements would take place prior to the Special Topics portion of the meeting.

- **Health Officer Report- Dr. Russell Moy**
 - Dr. Moy announced the dates for the upcoming MHAAC/LHIC/OIT joint meetings: January 28th, March 31st, and May 26th
 - He also announced that the MHAAC would follow the Harford County school closing guidelines for upcoming meetings during inclement weather. If HCHD schools are closed on the same date as the MHAAC meeting, the meeting will not take place.
- **Guest Update- Tracy Kunmann, Hannah's Hope**
 - Contact Info: Tracy Kunmann: tkunmann@icloud.com | FindHope-Hannah.org
 - Tracy shared about the work of Hannah's Hope in Harford County. Hannah's Hope was named after Pastor Craig McLaughlin's daughter, Hannah. The initiative is rooted in human trafficking prevention efforts and consists of several core areas that pertain to human trafficking. They also focus on combatting stigma related to substance use disorder (SUD) and the stigma that surrounds human trafficking survivors. The group is always looking for ways to partner with school systems, PTAs, student groups, and other community organizations that interface with parents and youth.
- **Guest Update- Fred Strieder, Mosaic Group**
 - Contact Info: Fred Strieder: fstrieder@groupmosaic.com
 - Fred spoke to the group about the Families Strong support group that is being brought to Harford County. Families Strong provides support to families of those struggling with substance use disorder. Mosaic seeks one or most host agencies in Harford County to provide meeting space and assist in recruitment of participants for support groups beginning in either February or March of 2020. Information about this process and program will be sent alongside the minutes from this meeting. Those with questions may contact Fred directly at the email address provided.
- **Core Service Agency- Tracy Kelly**
 - Tracy reported on the CSA's updates in place of Jessica Kraus.

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- The Residential Rehabilitation program currently has seven vacancies. This program is for those with a mental health disorder diagnosis and who are MA eligible. Applications can be found here: <http://harfordmentalhealth.org/harford-mental-health-forms>
 - The Continuum of Care program will have vacancies coming soon.
 - The CSA is currently reaching out to educate the community and partners on the SOAR initiative in Harford County.
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**
 - Tara shared details about current initiatives taking place in the county through the Office of Drug Control Policy. Progress includes receiving funding for new programs, utilizing best practices for adult drug court, using adolescent drug court, offering the 6-hour course “Choose Your Path,” and holding another “Night of Conversation” in Harford County.
 - CCAR training for recovery coaches has been completed
 - A free EPICs training will take place in February.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Pam Llewellyn**
 - Pam gave an update on the KFHCC’s progress since the ribbon cutting in May.
 - The walk-in crisis center has served more than 895 patients since opening in June. Half of those seen had not previously been seen by UMUCH.
 - The residential crisis beds have served more than 80 patients since opening in August, and the number of patients seen per month is increasing month-to-month.
 - The primary payer they are seeing is Blue Cross. However, private payers do not pay for crisis beds. They are working with insurers to find solutions to insurance barriers for reimbursement.
 - The team is meeting monthly with EMS and law enforcement to solve barriers to direct transport to the KFHCC.
 - They hope to begin hiring Peer Recovery Specialists.
 - They are promoting marketing efforts and ask that local providers and partners change their after-hours message to state that patients should call or go to the KFHCC, rather than going to the emergency room for mental/behavioral health emergencies.
 - They are exploring opening a dementia clinic for walk-in in the future.
- **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.
 - HCHD is expanding mental and behavioral health services to include services to youth and adolescents, a critically underserved group in Harford County.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Shawn shared updated about changes with local providers, as well as new funding opportunities available in Harford County.
 - Ashley will expand PHP services and now include OP, IOP, Suboxone, and Vivitrol services. The new location will open soon next door to the KFHCC.
 - Optum has opened registration for webinar trainings for various BH providers.
 - RFP proposals are due December 9, for Minority Outreach Technical Assistance (MOTA) Partners, Faith Based and Community based organized.
 - Veni Vidi Vici methadone services are now open in Harford County.

Community Announcements

- Those appointed to the MHAAC were asked to confirm their appointments and complete an application with Mary Bunch by January 1, 2020.
- The 2020 Suicide Prevention Conference will take place May 8th, other details TBA.
- Hepatitis C treatment options are available at the Harford County Health Department. Please call the Woodbridge location: 410-612-1779.
- An emergency rotating shelter in Harford will run for 12 weeks, beginning in December and staff members are now trained with Naloxone.

Special Topic

Mathew Swinburne, JD gave a presentation on medical cannabis regulation in Maryland.

- The Network for Public Health Law provides legal technical assistances to local health departments, non-profits, and other community organizations.
- Mathew shared that the legalization of marijuana, both for medical and recreational purposes, is complex. He shared the public health challenges of the legalization of edible cannabis, such as issues related to its appeal to youth, dosing concerns, and regulation of non-food products. He also shared the public health and legal challenges related to the legalization of medical cannabis, such as differences in state and federal laws, FDA approval for specific products, and compliance to state programs. This presentation will be sent to group members alongside the minutes to this meeting.
- Contact: mswinburne@law.umaryland.edu

Upcoming Meetings

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

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