



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



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



MHAAC, LHC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT

Virtual Joint Meeting

Meeting Minutes | May 26, 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. The minutes were approved by the group.

Special Topic

Mary introduced the speaker, Bernard Hennigan, for the special topic section of the meeting.

- **Youth & Adolescent Mental Health:** Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Support Services, Harford County Public Schools
 - Bernard shared an overview of mental health in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). He shared methods of identifying potential mental health problems in youth and adolescents, current practices within HCPS to address mental health, and ways for community stakeholders to partner with HCPS.
 - Please see the attached presentation and reach out to Bernard Hennigan at Bernard.hennigan@hcps.org if you have questions regarding partnership with the schools on youth and adolescent mental health.

Updates

- **Health Officer Report- Dr. Russell Moy**
 - Dr. Moy reviewed current COVID-19 data at the national, state, and county level. He also shared information regarding the impact of the pandemic on mental health in Harford County.
 - Half of Americans surveyed reported experiencing harm to their mental health as a result of the pandemic.
 - Mental health continues to be a key priority in Harford County, as the county has a rate of 11.9 suicide deaths per 100,000 population. This is greater than the state average of 9.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 population.
 - COVID-19 has led to many mental health and SUD providers offering services via telemedicine. The Harford County Health Department continues to provide mental and behavioral health services to clients

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remotely. COVID-19 may provide the opportunity for additional support for behavioral health screening and treatment.

- 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%). The county continues to see a decline in opioid deaths. Harford County is now ranked 10th worst in opioid deaths for the state of Maryland.
- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**
 - Jessica shared about the work the CSA and the Local Addictions Authority (LAA) are doing to assist providers and clients throughout Harford County.
 - The LAA and CSA have a comprehensive list of provider services available during COVID-19. This list is updated continually and available to all partners in Harford County.
 - The LAA and CSA continue to host biweekly provider meetings for those interested in staying abreast of services in the county.
 - Maryland's Behavioral Health Association (BHA) has posted an open position for a "Career Consultant" that will be remote and then transition to an on-site role once businesses/services reopen.
 - Please see the job announcement attached to the minutes.
 - A Call for Proposals is also posted for crisis response programs – due June 19th.
 - RFP link: http://harfordmentalhealth.org/news_and_events
 - The CSA's Annual Plan and goals were each accepted by BHA
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**
 - Tara shared details about ODCP's efforts during COVID-19.
 - ODCP continues to reach youth through its Pledge program.
 - Resources related to working from home are available on their website and they post daily Facebook updates related to COVID-19 resources.
 - Courts have been running virtually and ODCP provides resources to participants, including virtual support and case management.
 - The first Family Recovery Court is graduating this month.
 - The Annual Recovery and Addictions Symposium is being rescheduled.
 - CJCC applications for funding will be posted on the County Government website soon.
- **Emergency Services – Rick Ayers**
 - Emergency Services continues to support community stakeholders in responding to COVID-19.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Pam Llewellyn**
 - Pam shared an overview over the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center's service numbers since opening in 2019.
 - Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions (e.g. ban on travel to NJ), some patients are unable to return home, keeping them in residential beds for longer than average/anticipated.

- Patients are provided with wraparound services.
 - The Crisis Center has seen an increase in walk-ins since the relaxation of the Stay at Home order.
 - To meet the needs of patients during COVID-19, they are looking to potentially increase residential crisis beds and increase in-patient single occupancy rooms.
 - The Aberdeen campus has been approved for 32 beds and will feature specialized services, such as geriatric psychiatry.
 - Youth mental health services are primarily outpatient care options. The Crisis Center provides wraparound services to youth in crisis or youth in need of mental health services. The youngest walk-in with suicidal ideation was five years of age.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - This group meets to discuss matters related to Harford County's Opioid Intervention Team. Each year Opioid Operational Command Center Block Grant funds are awarded to all 24 OIT's in Maryland in order to combat the opioid crisis as they see fit. In late March, the OIOC distributed FY2021 OIOC Block Grant applications to the 24 OIT's in Maryland. Last week, the Local Addictions Authority submitted the application.
 - This project, entitled Center Intake Navigation, and Recovery Team, is primarily staffed by Peer Recovery Specialist employed by Addictions Connections Resource.
 - The focus of this project is to provide on-demand comprehensive screenings, navigation through the treatment and recovery system, and follow up recovery support and Care Coordination.
 - On May 6th the Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities (MABHA) received notification from the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) of available PPE for local substance-related disorder and mental health treatment programs.
 - Harford County's behavioral health authorities, the CSA and LAA, reached out to substance-related disorder and mental health treatment programs throughout Harford County.
 - A total of 50 cases of gloves and 70 cases of masks were requested.
 - These requests were approved and the LAA and CSA will be working with Harford County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in order to distribute these materials.
 - The Behavioral Health Administration developed a telebehavioral health provider locator map, which identifies substance-related disorder, mental health, and behavioral health treatment programs that are offering telehealth services.
 - This map can be found at the following web address:
<https://telebehavioralhealth-maryland.hub.arcgis.com/>
 - Information provided on this list was submitted by local behavioral health authorities.
 - The LAA and CSA are also working on developing a list of programs in Harford County that are still providing face-to-face services.

- **Harford County Sheriff's Office- Cpt. Carl Brooks**
 - The Sheriff's Office had no updates for this meeting.

Community Announcements

- Mike Clancy from Affiliated Asante Group shared that mobile crisis is up and running and they have received an increase in calls for SUD treatment during COVID-19.
- Jill Laterri from Department of Human Services (DHS, formerly DSS) shared that DHS has witnessed a decline in referrals for abuse and neglect during COVID-19. See attached flyer for families. DHS is also working to keep foster care placement stable and are polling resource homes about keeping children with COVID-19 exposures.
- Craig Lippens from the Bergand Group shared that they are still open and offering services to clients.
 - Contact information: 443-299-6766
- Mary Bunch asked that the group be sent a new report from BHA regarding youth and adolescent mental health service utilization. Shelby will send this report with the minutes.
- Voices of Hope is still offering services to the community.
 - Phone: 443-993-7055
 - Email: erin.woodie@voicesofhope.org

Upcoming Meetings:

- September 29th, 2020

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