



Mental Health & Addictions  
Advisory Council



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



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**MHAAC, LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT  
Joint Meeting  
Meeting Minutes | September 29, 2020 | 8:00-10:00 AM**

**Call to Order**

Shelby Graves handed the meeting over to MHAAC Chair, Mary Bunch. Mary welcomed members and provided instructions for the virtual meeting. There was no old business to address at this meeting.

**Special Topic**

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

- **First Responders' Role in Recovery:** Zachary Kosinski and Sandi Gallion presented on the role of first responders in recovery.
- For more information, see the presentation attached to the minutes email.

**Updates**

- **Health Officer Report- Marcy Austin**
  - Marcy Austin, Acting Health Officer, shared an update on Maryland and Harford County COVID-19 metrics.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> metric is positivity rate.
    - Maryland's positivity rate as of yesterday is 2.58%.
    - Harford County's positivity rate as of yesterday is 2.45%.
    - Positivity rates over the past two weeks have been averaging 2.88% for Maryland (down 25% compared to two weeks prior) and 2.73% for Harford County (down 51% compared to two weeks prior)
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> metric is new daily cases per 100,000 people.
    - Maryland's new case rate as of yesterday is 7.67 per 100,000 people.
    - Harford County's new case rate as of yesterday is 5.03 per 100,000 people.
    - New daily cases over the past two weeks have been averaging 8.99 cases per 100,000 for Maryland (down 7% compared to two weeks prior) and

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120 S. Hays Street  
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125 N. Main Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
410-638-3333

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- 6.83 per 100,000 for Harford County (down 38% compared to two weeks prior).
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> metric that we've been following is the number of COVID-19 deaths – we continue to have very low deaths in Harford County.
    - In the past two weeks there have been 97 new deaths in Maryland (compared to 84 deaths and up 13% compared to two weeks prior) and 1 new death in Harford County (compared to 4 deaths two weeks prior).
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> metric that we've been following is number of statewide hospitalizations, which has been at its lowest level since March 2020.
    - In Maryland, the number of residents that are currently hospitalized are down 8%, the number of residents in acute care is down 2%, and the number of residents in the ICU is down 21% compared to two weeks prior.
- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**
  - Jessica Kraus, Executive Director of the Office on Mental Health CSA, shared upcoming funding opportunities through the Core Service Agency and introduced the new Director of crisis response services.
  - The CSA will issue an RFP on October 1 for the development and implementation of an adolescent club house. They are seeking a start date of March 1, 2021.
  - The State of Maryland re-opened the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) application for the Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative (NORI) on Monday, September 21 at 12 p.m., and it will now remain open until October 9. It will close October 9, 2020 at 5 p.m. or when grant requests exceed available funding.
    - The application also has updated funding criteria to include (1) grant assistance for basic operating support and (2) an increase in the maximum grant request amount for all applicants.
    - Eligible nonprofit organizations can receive up to \$75,000 in grant assistance for operational support.
    - For more information, including eligibility requirements and application guidelines, visit <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Communities/Pages/BHA-DDA-NOFA.aspx>
    - **To apply:** <https://onestop.md.gov/forms/BHA-DDA-Maryland-Nonprofit-Recovery-Initiative-5f2042f07b104b0100641f0a>
  - Sarah Quinn is the new Director of crisis response services. They have been in-house and live as of August 17<sup>th</sup> and include the 24/7 crisis hotline and other crisis services.
    - Crisis response re-launched to provide assistance to those in immediate behavioral health crisis. Assistance is also available for anyone needing assistance navigating the mental/behavioral health system.
    - In-person mobile crisis teams have also resumed services.

- Crisis services have established a partnership with the Department of Social Services – with the aim to keep children in their current placements and help manage the mental health needs of these youth.
  - A School Intervention Specialist is now available to provide assistance to any youth enrolled in Harford County schools.
  - They are also in the process of onboarding peer recovery specialists.
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**
  - Tara Lathrop, Director of ODCP, shared details about Recovery Month in Harford County, Naloxone Leave Behind efforts, and virtual court programs.
  - Tara shared that ODCP is currently working with partners to track and address relapse. This includes connecting people to recovery coaches, getting meetings up and running, and making referrals to treatment and to the Crisis Center.
  - Their team is helping to develop magnets for first responders to distribute with Naloxone Leave Behind program.
  - The ODCP and Harford County Government participated in Recovery Month, which included:
    - Funding two billboards: One for mental health in children, the other was for adults in recovery.
    - They featured the “30 days, 30 stories” series on their social media pages. Tara encouraged group members to visit their Facebook page to view stories of people living with SUD.
    - They hosted an online art gallery, featuring artists in recovery.
    - They produced a radio PSA about SUD.
    - They also participated in “Light it Up Purple!”
  - Tara shared that the following resources are available on the Harford Talks website: Isolation, depression, and stress resources; Telework and teleschool tips; Stress, mental health, and substance use resources tailored to teens.
  - ODCP is currently running virtual court programs (e.g. adult court). They are hosting a graduation for adult court on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - They are working on an academic detailing project to provide clinicians with CEs for attending Opioid Awareness Training. They will be the first in the state to have an academic detailing available through the county.
  - Staff are completing certification for Mental Health First Aid and QPR.
  - Tara reminded everyone that Sunday, Nov 8<sup>th</sup> is the Harford County Running for Recovery event. Those interested in participating can register through [charmcityrun.com](http://charmcityrun.com). All proceeds benefit homelessness and healing.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
  - Jennifer Redding recently joined the Upper Chesapeake team at the end of June as the new Executive Director of the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center.
  - Data update: Since opening, the Crisis Center has served 3,205 individuals.
    - Last year, they had completed 359 OP visits at this point in time. This year they have completed 587 visits (July 1 – Present).

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- Last year they served 250 guests through walk-in services at this point in time. This year, they have served 419 guests.
    - As for residential care beds, this year they have billed for 182 days (5.9 guests per day). While last year they had billed 74 days (2.5 guests per day) for the month of September.
  - The Crisis Center is seeing a significant increase in services. Their team is looking to see how people are currently accessing the center. They are promoting it as an entry-point for mental/behavioral health services for those who need navigation through the county's system.
    - Their team is placing a strong emphasis on comprehensive assessments. They are striving to make this a timely process to identify treatment needs and create linkages to services and care.
    - They are looking to stabilize people in crisis longer and linking to long-term treatment through a community provider. This includes effectively assessing all treatment needs and stabilizing symptoms prior to releasing residents back into the community.
    - They are incorporating peer recovery specialists in the overall process at the center.
    - They are also streamlining medication protocols related to SUD and withdrawal.
  - The Crisis Center is coordinating with mobile crisis to streamline process for entry to care or continuation of care. Their goal is to eventually offer psychiatry.
  - The Crisis Center now provides therapy for children 8 years of age and older.
  - Two have received new funding through two new streams: 1) \$181,000 from OCCC to fund peer recovery specialists and 2) Mosaic Group, funding for one peer recovery specialist for patients in three OB/GYN practices.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
  - Shawn shared updates concerning the Harford County Provider Operations meetings and the Maryland Emergency Management alert system.
  - The LAA and CSA co-host a biweekly meeting for behavioral health providers in Harford County.
    - The virtual meeting occurs on Thursday from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM.
    - The group discusses various topics, such as BHA & Optum updates, training and grant opportunities, and local provider programmatic updates.
      - They utilize the email address [hcprovidercovidquestions@gmail.com](mailto:hcprovidercovidquestions@gmail.com).
    - If you are interested in attending, please feel free to reach out to Shawn for an invitation.
  - The Maryland Emergency Management has expanded its existing text alert program, #MdReady, so users can receive text alerts in Spanish. #MdReady allows people to opt in to receive updates, tips, and alerts about COVID-19 and other threats and hazards. #MdListo is its counterpart in Spanish.

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- To opt into the program text MdReady (for English) or MdListo (for Spanish) to the number 898-211.
  - MEMA also reminds Maryland residents that 211-MD has translators in Spanish and 180 other languages ready to assist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - You can reach a 211-MD representative to get help with food, housing and shelter, substance abuse, and mental health, in the following ways: Dial 211 or chat online through their website: [211md.org/chat-with-us](https://211md.org/chat-with-us)
- **Harford County Sheriff's Office- Cpt. Carl Brooks**
  - The Sheriff's Office did not have an update for this meeting.
- **Harford County Emergency Services – Edward Hopkins**
  - Eddie Hopkins, Director of Emergency Services, provided an update on Naloxone Leave Behind, peer recovery data, and a new public access AED program.
  - Eddie voiced support of Naloxone Leave Behind program. His team is working with Sandi and Zach to help bring the last of the fire houses into the fold.
  - His team is currently working on a strategy to capture multiple visits and more than one use of naloxone during EMS visits.
  - EMS continues to support Sarah's (CSA) crisis response operations. They are providing crisis response with additional radios.
  - Eddie shared that they are working on a new public access AED program. This program will ensure people have the tools needed to address emergencies close by. This will include environmentally protected boxes where there are power sources. They can also hold Stop the Bleed Kits and PPE within the boxes. He would like to place accessible Narcan in these boxes as well. They have secured funding through the CARES Act and are working on putting together the first one with Parks and Recreation.

### Community Announcements

- Jose Rosado will be leaving his role as Executive Director of New Day on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. He will be reaching out with new contact information once he has assumed his new role. New Day will be posting the new opening this week and will send the announcement out through this channel. Jose communicated that he will still be working within the area. He will still be part of the Board of Directors and as a consultant to help to the new Executive Director with their transition into the role.
- Joel Lightfoot of Northern Chesapeake Counseling shared that they have a group called "Rally Point" for veterans and first responders to help with trauma-informed care, resiliency, and support. It has been in place approximately 6 months and they have seen real progress within the group. He welcomed the group to refer anyone to the support group that is a first responder, police, or similar role in need of support.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- November 24, 2020

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