



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 | November 24th, 2020 | 8:00-8:40AM**

Call to Order

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

Updates

- **Health Officer Report- Marcy Austin**
 - Marcy Austin, Acting Health Officer, shared an update on Maryland and Harford County COVID-19 metrics.
 - The 1st metric is positivity rate.
 - Harford County’s positivity rate yesterday is 9.14%
 - Positivity rates over the past two weeks have been averaging 8.61% for Harford County (a 95% increase compared to two weeks prior).
 - The 2nd metric is new daily cases per 100,000 people.
 - Harford County’s new case rate yesterday is 47.26 per 100,000 people.
 - New daily cases over the past two weeks have been averaging 33.54 per 100,000 for Harford County (a 188% increase compared to two weeks prior).
 - The 3rd 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 5 new deaths in Harford County, compared to 3 deaths two weeks prior.
 - The 4th 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 up 84%, the number of residents in acute care is up 90%, and the number of residents in the ICU is up 72% compared to two weeks prior.

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- Marcy shared that the health department is concerned about the mental health of youth and adolescents in Harford County during COVID-19. The health department continues to offer services to youth and adolescents, refers families to the Crisis Center and additional community resources, and is planning to expand services to youth in the near future.
- Marcy also shared the health department's concerns for adults living with SUD in Harford County throughout the pandemic. HCHD continues to offer a variety of SUD and mental health services to adults.
- Marcy announced the appointment of a new Health Officer, Dr. David Bishai, who will begin working at HCHD in January. Dr. Bishai currently works with Johns Hopkins University. He received his PhD from Wharton Business School, his MPH from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his MD from the University of California San Diego Medical School.
- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**
 - Jessica Kraus, Executive Director of the Office on Mental Health CSA, shared upcoming funding and training opportunities with Core Service Agency (CSA).
 - The CSA and the LAA will present a joint mental and behavioral health plan to the MHAAC in January.
 - The CSA is moving forward with the [Adolescent Club House RFP](#).
 - The CSA will offer a Suicide Prevention Conference on May 14, 2021. More details will be provided to the community in early spring.
 - BHA/MedChi have developed a [new webinar series](#) for professionals.
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Tara Lathrop**
 - Tara Lathrop, Director of ODCP, shared updates regarding community involvement and programming with ODCP.
 - Recently, Adult Drug Court held its first graduation ceremony.
 - ODCP participated in Red Ribbon month in October.
 - ODCP hosted a successful Annual Harford County Drug Take Back event in October.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
 - Jennifer Redding provided an update on community partnership building and an increase in mental health services with the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center.
 - The Crisis Center is currently working with community partners to improve access to and awareness of services within Harford County. This includes partners such as the CSA's mobile crisis team and the Bel Air Police Department.
 - The Crisis Center has seen an uptick in most services over the course of the past two months. This includes walk-ins, residential beds, and outpatient services. They provided 181 psychiatric sessions to clients in October alone.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Shawn shared updates concerning the Harford County Provider Operations meetings and the Maryland Emergency Management alert system.
 - SOR II RFP: There will be an upcoming RFP through the State Opioid Response II grant for funding opportunities for initiatives specific to tribal groups/Native

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Americans/ Indigenous person. No dates related to this grant have been released. Going forward please check Harford County Health Department's website for updates related to this grant.

- OIT VISIT: On September 29th, Harford County Opioid Intervention Team Leadership met with Executive Director, Steve Schuh, and OIT Coordinator Teresa Heath from the Opioid Operational Command Center. During the meeting, OOC staff reviewed specific programming established in Harford County - programming used to respond to the opioid epidemic. After the meeting, the OOC submitted a memo that noted the following, "Harford County has consistently had one of the strongest response efforts in the state. The county is very well organized and has a very comprehensive range of programs in place, including particularly strong correctional-system programming
- The memo also noted positives, and negatives aspects of Harford County programming, which I will not go over in detail due to time constraints. To summarize there were at a total of 18 positives and 3 negatives
- Finally, the memo listed recommendations, which include the following:
 - Consider an RFP and grant opportunity for potential providers of a 3.1 level halfway house program in the county.
 - Continue to pursue the development of a mobile MAT program.
 - Expand the LEAD program to the Sheriff's Office.
 - Explore with DSS the possibility of deploying staff in schools.
 - Integrate 211 Press 1 into the county's hotline program and promote more actively 211 Press 1.
- **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 EMS operations in Harford County
 - EMS are currently implementing a Viral Syndrome Pandemic Triage protocol to help reduce burden on local emergency departments.
 - EMS use has increased recently, so their team is working to put out messaging about EMS use and welcomes cooperation from community partners.
 - Rick Ayers was appointed by County Executive Barry Glassman to work with Marcy Austin and the health department to address COVID-19 outbreaks, with specific attention to assisted living and nursing home facilities.

Community Announcements

- Jose Rosado has taken a new role as the Program Director for Inner County Outreach. He will have information regarding family and individual resources in early spring.
- Amber Shrodes shared that grant and community funding deadlines fall on December 4th from Harford County Government:

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- Childcare Provider Business Grant <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3017/Childcare-Provider-Relief-Grant>
- Water and Sewer Assistance Grants (Residential) <https://harfordcaa.org/harfordcares/>
- Rental Assistance Grants (Residential) <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/244/Housing-Community-Development>
- Deputy State’s Attorney, Gavin Pataschnick, shared that the Office of the State’s Attorney of Harford County now has an [independent website](#). They would like feedback from partners regarding the community resources shared on the site. Please submit your recommendations to their office.
- Tara Andrews shared the following regarding ARS Treatment Center:
 - ARS of Aberdeen is now providing IOP services. Admission to the program is available Monday – Friday between 6AM and 12 noon walk-in or by appointment. All clients and potential clients are being screened for COVID symptoms.
 - ARS Aberdeen is still providing medication assisted treatment using methadone and buprenorphine in conjunction with outpatient and now IOP counseling services. IOP clients are not required to be on MAT in order to participate in the IOP program.
 - ARS accepts Maryland Medicaid, CareFirst, and Veterans Affairs CCN (requires prior authorization from the VA) insurances.

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 26th, 2021

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