



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 | March 30, 2021 | 8:00-10:00AM

Call to Order

Christina Claypool handed the meeting over to MHAAC Chair, Mary Bunch. Mary welcomed the members and provided instructions for the virtual meeting. The previous meeting minutes were accepted by the group. There was no old business to address at this meeting.

Special Topic: Substance Use Deaths, Dr. David Bishai

- Dr. Bishai, Harford County Health Officer, presented on substance use deaths. Some highlights from the presentation were:
 - Almost half of Harford County drug deaths were from Fentanyl
 - Methamphetamine, Opioids, Fentanyl, Prescription, Benzo, Alcohol, and Cocaine deaths have increased from 2019-2020. The total drug deaths and prescription deaths decreased from 2019-2020.
 - There is a concern in the significant rise in alcohol deaths.
- Dr. Bishai asked the group about how long there have been alcohol sales at convenience stores and grocery stores. This was grandfathered in and remains under the control of the county liquor board.

Updates

- **Health Officer Report- Dr. David Bishai**
 - Dr. David Bishai reported that the health department has been able to maintain services on the third floor and has been working with Dr. Stancliff for behavioral health services.
 - Dr. Bishai shared that the health department hopes to increase direct services to the community in May.
 - Dr. Bishai has also met with the Teen Diversion Program and will be working with them to increase their volume to at least 15 by July.
 - There will continue to be ACEs efforts from the health department and we have

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a staff member that is working with partners on this issue.

- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**

- Jessica Kraus, Executive Director of the Office on Mental Health CSA, shared there will be a webinar on March 30th called, “Addressing the Vaccine Hesitancy that You, Your Colleagues, or Those in Your Care May Have.”
- Ms. Kraus also shared there is Suicide Prevention conference on Friday, May 14th. You can register for the conference here:
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehbkge62c5143ec7&oseq=&c=&ch=>
- There is an RFP for Care Coordination for Children and Youth (attached in the email).
- There were a total of 5,100 hotline calls and 696 dispatches done. There were also 93 dispatches for the Peer Recovery Grant.
- Ms. Kraus wanted to thank Sarah Quinn and her team for their work.

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

- Tara Lathrop, Director of ODCP, shared that there was an adult drug court graduation this past Friday with 4 participants. Some of the participants included the first participants to be a part of the adult drug court. Ms. Lathrop said this would not have been possible without support from Addiction Connections Resource (ACR).
- The drug court has seen an increase in referrals and especially from kids from doing virtual learning.
- There have been modifications to the teen court program given the increase in domestic violence cases.
 - There is now a new program to support kids from the domestic violence cases.
 - A new Youth Specialist will be hired.
- There is an opioid misuse grant.
 - With this there will be an Academic Detailing Coordinator, which is the first time we will have one through the county. The Office of Drug Control Policy will be working with the health department on this as well.
 - There will be an evidence-based program that provides information on pain management, substance use, and finding alternatives. Narcan training will also be provided.
 - The Opioid Misuse Coordinator and the health department a video for narcan training as well.
 - The team will be providing QPR training to local recovery houses
 - April 24th is national take back day 10-2
 - On April 24th there will also be an EXPO for Transitioning Youth. Registration can be found here:
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3090/Expo-for-Transitioning->

[Youth#:~:text=The%20EXPO%20for%20Transitioning%20Youth,from%20high%20school%20to%20adulthood.](#)

- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
 - Jennifer Redding provided a data update on their 3 service lines.
 - Urgent Care:
 - Jan: 348/ Feb: 358 guests served
 - Average of 10/day
 - FY21 YTD: 2,408, FY20: 1,445. A 66% increase from FY20-FY21
 - Residential
 - Jan: 138/ Feb: 144 guests served
 - Average of 6/day
 - FY21 YTD: 1,478, FY20 878. A 68% increase from FY20-FY21
 - Outpatient Clinic
 - Jan: 363/ Feb: 362 guests served
 - Average of 16/day
 - FY21 YTD: 2,677, FY20 1,815. A 47% increase from FY20-FY21
 - Ms. Redding shared that the Crisis Center is strengthening partnerships with ACR and Voices of Hope.
 - There was a concern about reaching the route 40 corridor population but data shows that Edgewood is in the top 3 of reach.
 - There has been an increase in emergency petitions at Harford Memorial which is when someone has been deemed to be in danger to themselves.
 - Ms. Redding said they are working with groups to continue the dialogue with law enforcement about when to send people to the crisis center.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Shawn Martin talked about the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) Fiscal Year 20222 (FY22) Competitive Grant Program Call for Proposals:
 - Maryland’s OCCC recently announced a call for proposals for grants under its FY22 Competitive Grant Program.
 - State agencies, local governments (including local school systems), and community-based partners are eligible to apply for Competitive Grant Program funding.
 - All project proposals must address the opioid crisis through the Hogan Administration’s policy priorities of Prevention & Education, Enforcement & Public Safety, and/or Treatment & Recovery.
 - Additionally, projects must align with the goals established in the state’s Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan, which can be found at [BeforeItsTooLate.Maryland.gov](#)
 - The application deadline for FY 22 proposals is Friday, April 30, 2021 at 5 p.m.

- Interested parties can find a document outlining complete grant application requirements and award standards under the “Grants” section of the OOC’s website.
- The document includes key dates, application process, evaluation standards, funding specifications, reporting requirements, and other information to complete the application process.
- The OOC will also host a virtual information session on April 6, 2021 at 12 p.m. for interested applicants.
- FY2022 Block Grant Program
 - The OOC also distributed FY22 applications for its Block Grant Program.
 - The purpose of the Block Grant Program is to provide some level of funding to all 24 OITs in Maryland in order to combat the opioid crisis in whatever manner they best see fit.
 - It was decided by Harford County OIT leadership in 2018 that funds would best be utilized to support and expand services provided by Addiction Connections Resource (ACR).
 - Funds may be used to expand existing efforts or to pursue new strategies.
 - Each jurisdiction in Maryland has been allocated a set amount, and in FY2022 Harford County will be awarded \$153,576.
 - The deadline for this grant is Wednesday, April 28, 2021
 - Mr. Martin is currently working on the application and will submit this document on behalf of Harford County’s OIT.
- Harford County Behavioral Health Annual Plan:
 - The CSA and LAA completed its annual plan review with the BHA program and fiscal staff and are waiting for BHA comments and suggested edits.
 - Once received, they will make the necessary edits and send a completed copy to BHA.
- **Harford County Emergency Services – Rick Ayers and Edward Hopkins**
 - Rick Ayers, Emergency Manager, shared they continue to support the health department for their needs.
 - Eddie Hopkins, Director of Emergency Services shared that the mobile crisis center is working with radios about getting overdose calls.
 - They now have a fire and EMS app to see what the nature of the call is and provide real time information. The app activates immediately and we won’t have a peer recovery specialist on the call.

Community Announcements / Q&A

- Councilman Wagner identified the need to provide adolescent in-house treatment facilities for youth. It is difficult for adolescents to access this service.
 - He shared that the Hope House has done a great job.

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- If we get these children into a rehab center, we may increase the possibility of addressing addiction issues earlier and before the individuals spiral into “out of control” adults and remain a “constant” offender in the judicial system.
- He would like to see data on drug deaths by age and have a conversation about fentanyl deaths in the under 21 age group.
- Councilman Wagner would be happy to form a workgroup on this topic.
- Amber Shrodes wanted to give a shoutout to Eddie Hopkins and Sarah for the app that the EOC has implemented and it is the first one that has been created in the state.
- Tara Lathrop shared that from the concerns that Councilman Wagner had about juveniles at risk, the Office of Drug Control Policy works on that age group.
 - There has been a law that made changes to addressing that and the ways to get the youth in for help is by arresting youth.
 - The Office of Drug Control Policy also continues to reach out to the community through Hope House. There is also a core tablet through middle school students.
 - Ms. Lathrop shared that when kids are moving into the juvenile justice system they are looking at the delinquency aspect so they can catch them and work with the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office breaks down data and people are able to ask them for it. A majority of overdose is in the 31-35 age range.
- Judge Kevin Mahoney shares concern about those services that are needed for the youth. There is a grant to begin using the validated risk assessment tool as a source.
 - Judge Mahoney shared that as far as referring people to drug court, the numbers are down and it is challenging to sell the concept of drug court to the system.
- Linda Williams thinks it is best to address the problem before kids get into trouble and to use social workers trained in ACE. This can address the youth before they are in trouble.
- Cathy Lozinak is a parent of a child with a heroin problem and wanted to share her story.
 - Ms. Lozinak is familiar with ACR, judges, and the police.
 - A loved one had an emergency before thanksgiving and needed detox and she was confused as a parent and therefore, contacted the Harford Klein Crisis Center. Ms. Lozinak did not realize the crisis center does not do detox and the ER wouldn't take him either. The Pascal center in Anne Arundel County took him and she now knows about the Walden Center. This person is now homeless and there are not many shelters for men.
 - As a community member, she would like to see a workgroup to increase homeless beds, more robust programs in Harford, and more support for the youth.
- Jennifer Redding followed up with Cathy Lozinak and said she would like to solidify partnerships. The crisis center is able to provide medication support.
- Eddie Hopkins also wanted to share that they are into the RMS now which allows them to pool EMS reports and search overdose reports. They have also found legal ways to

share information with the crisis center. The EOC will continue to get peer recovery specialists.

- Mr. Hopkins also shared that they have implemented AEDs in the parks and trails system. The boxes are environmentally protected and they added narcan in the boxes last month. They plan to put narcan in all county buildings
- Erin Woodie from Voices of Hope shared that they signed a lease on 2 locations in Harford and have been working on Naloxone outreach through a backpack program.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 25th, 2021

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