



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



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



**MHAAC, LHIC Behavioral Health Workgroup, & OIT
Virtual Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes | September 28, 2021 | 8:00-10:00 AM**

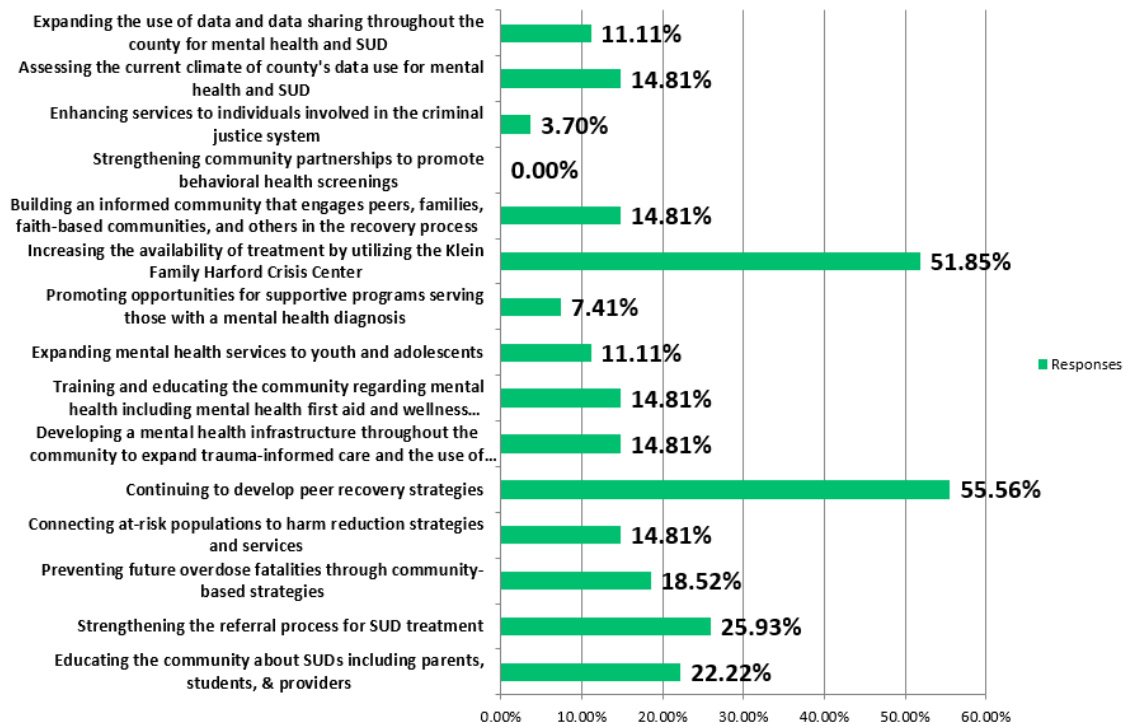
Call to Order and Welcoming of New Chair - Mary Bunch

- Mary Bunch gave her remarks and announced the new MHAAC chair, Bari Klein.

Special Topic

- **Survey Results and Discussion - Dr. David Bishai & Bari Klein**
 - A survey was sent to attendees on the progress of the MHAAC strategic plan. Bari Klein went over the results

Please check the top 3 action items from the strategic plan that you think Harford County is doing the **best** with?

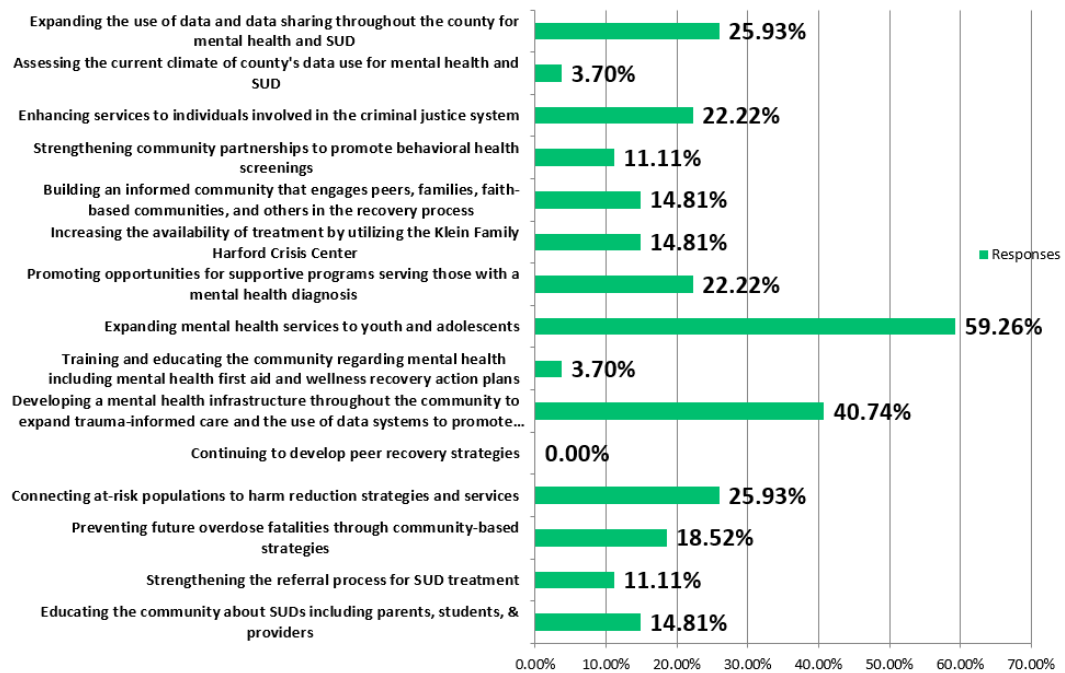


Harford County Health Department
Division of Behavioral Health
120 S. Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-877-2340

Harford County Government
Department of Community Services - ODCP
125 N. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-3333

Office on Mental Health
Core Service Agency of Harford County
2231 Conowingo Road, Suite A
Bel Air, MD 21015
410-803-8726

Please check the top 3 action items from the strategic plan that you think Harford County **could use some improvement** with?



- The group was then split into breakout rooms to discuss Trauma-informed care, youth and adolescents, harm reduction, and criminal justice.

Breakout Groups Report Out

- **Trauma-informed care - Jennifer Redding**
 - The trauma institute was supposed to be a hub for everything trauma informed. There is a steering committee but have not had the manpower to continue. The group discussed that it would be great to have a coordinator to provide the administrative duties for the group. Nonprofit involvement could be an option.
- **Youth and Adolescents - Paula Nash**
 - More providers are needed but it has been difficult hiring. It would be great for schools and the crisis center to expand youth and adolescent care.
 - The group discussed the need for youth and adolescents to be approached at the family level. The health department will be having the 1 North Main Health Center opening soon.
 - Debbie Button shared that it would be beneficial to provide parents with information on what they should do when their child is in need of help and where to get services with and without insurance.
- **Harm Reduction - Jess Kraus**
 - The group discussed that there is trouble with defining harm reduction and there is little knowledge on what harm reduction is so it would be good to continue to make people aware.

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- We need to address the stigma in harm reduction, trusted messengers to talk about harm reduction, and have a formal program with treatment services.
- The group also suggested data-informed outreach.
- **Criminal Justice - Zach Kosinski**
 - The group had some missing people from the sheriff's office and detention center, but were still able to discuss continuing and strengthening reentry programs.
 - The group also suggested reaching out to engage in other stakeholders with recovery centers.

Action Items Emerging		
Item	Who	When
Identify possible coordinator for trauma group	HCHD to talk to KCC	Before next MHAAC
Identify current version of advice to parents of youth in need of behavioral health services on what treatment options are	HCHD to talk to KCC and HCPS	Before next MHAAC
Invite HCPS rep to speak at next MHAAC meeting about resource gaps for youth mental health	HCHD to invite	Before next MHAAC
Reclaiming the term "harm reduction" from becoming a stigmatized term	Harm reduction group to report at next MHAAC	Before next MHAAC
Reach out to Sheriff's office to identify representative	HCHD to reach out to HCHD rep	Before next MHAAC

Regular Updates

- **Harford County Health Department - Andrea Pappas**
 - The health department celebrated recovery month in September.
 - We also have been offering in-person services since May 2021 and our peer recovery specialist has been taking a role in group services and linkages to care.
 - 1 North Main has begun with a soft opening for WIC but we will be doing other services including youth mental health, care coordination, family planning, and MCHP. The health department hopes to increase staffing for adults and youth.
- **Core Service Agency- Jessica Kraus**

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- Using Optum Maryland it was determined that the vaccination status for the general population was 80-85% and 40-45% of people receiving services. BHA is providing support to get clients vaccinated.
- [There is a webinar on October 15th on increasing COVID vaccines lead by Montgomery County due to their high vaccination rates of those served in the Public Behavioral Health System \(80-85% vaccination\)](#)
- BHA sent the survey link related to the vaccine to providers and the due date is October 15th. We will address this during the October 14th provider meeting.
- Data link initiative: Optum Maryland will be getting a notification of someone who was picked up on a charge in order to not drop them from behavioral health services.
- **Office of Drug Control Policy- Silvana Bowker**
 - ODCP worked with the community for distribution of lights and banners for recovery month as well as with restaurants for mocktails. There were also recovery rocks initiatives and a social media campaign.
 - Annual drug take back day will be October 23rd.
 - There will be an annual workshop at detention center
 - Adult drug court has several participants.
 - The Bridge program helps at-risk youth and teen court will fall under this. ODCP is partnering with Ashley's Clubhouse as well for adolescents.
- **UMUCH/Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
 - Data from the crisis center for the past few months has averaged:
 - Urgent care - 350 a month
 - Outpatient - 385 a month
 - Residential care - 7 out of 8 beds in use a month
 - There have been 57 emergency petitions per month and a bulk made by law enforcement. A number of those are related to drug and alcohol and need to be seen at the hospital to be treated medically. We continue to want to work with law enforcement.
 - The hospital is seeing an increase in first responders reaching out for care.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)- Shawn Martin**
 - Recovery Month
 - This year preparation for recovery month was unique in that local organizations came together to meet weekly. UMUICH, KFHACC, Ashley Addiction Treatment, Homecoming Project, ACR, Voices of Hope, Office of Drug Control Policy, MD coalition of Families and more met weekly to plan for Recovery Month.
 - Additional Funding
 - Detention Center MAT project
 - The LAA has secured State Fiscal Year 2022 State Opioid Response grant funding to support the Detention Center Medication Supported Recovery/Medication-Assisted Treatment project. This

award amount totals \$116,344. This project funds the salary of one FTE Certified Supervised Counselor and will be primarily located at the Harford County Detention Center.

- Crisis Hotline
 - Harford County was awarded State Fiscal Year 2022 State Opioid Response Year 2 funding in the amount of \$327,500 from the Maryland Department, Behavioral Health Administration. This funding will support the Crisis Hotline project, which is overseen and provided by the Office on Mental Health/Core Service Agency of Harford County.
- Opioid Treatment Program Peer Expansion
 - Harford County was awarded \$357,388 for FY2022 and FY2023 Opioid Treatment Program and Peer Expansion funding to target individuals utilizing Medication Supported Recovery at a Community-Based Behavioral Health Program licensed by the Maryland Department of Health-Behavioral Health Administration to provide services in Harford County.
- **Harford County Emergency Services – Edward Hopkins**
 - EMS has been working with Zach and the Harm Reduction department for naran distribution. We distributed naran in environmental/recreation areas that have in addition to AEDs.
 - EMS has also replaced naran if they have been affected by temperature.
 - The demand/calls have been high but not necessarily all COVID-related and we have had other counties help out.
 - We have seen some delays in care and we have worked with UMUH.
 - BLS clinicians have been working with the health department 5-10 times a week for homebound residents to make sure they are getting vaccinated.
 - There have been some complaints from citizens about EMS not being nice because they tell the citizens they can be treated at home. The waits for the hospital are long and people in the community do not have a support system and are calling 911 with no emergency.
 - Councilman Wagner asked when you go to people’s houses if you notice multiple people living in the house and what the house conditions are like.
 - Eddie Hopkins said that hoarding is often an issue. EMS would love to help but doesn’t have the resources and has to refer them elsewhere. There is not much that can be done since hoarding is not illegal.

Presentations

- **Serving Together - Katie Kilby**
 - Serving Together is a program for veterans to connect them to services.
 - Peer navigators work virtually to help with services they need.
 - We operate collaboratives and will be coming on October 12th for Harford.
 - Contact Katie Kilby for more information KKilby@every-mind.org
- **The Clubhouse - Laura Dahl and Jennifer Aguglia**
 - The Clubhouse will use recovery support services, peers and activities to promote pro-social behavior for adolescents ages 12-17* impacted by or at-risk for substance use disorders. Our staff will provide structured activities, education, and resources in a supportive environment, providing a safe space for the development and reinforcement of healthy life skills.
 - More info can be found at theclubhouse@ashleytreatment.org and www.ashleytreatment.org/theclubhouse
 - Bob Hennigan shared that the schools can take outside vendors to use as space.

Community Announcements / Q&A

- [Angela Gray shared the out of the darkness walk will be October 1st at Tydings Memorial Park](#)
- Amber Shrodes said there are a lot of recovery signs around the county. The Office on Mental Health had some extra spots for the [BG5k run/walk for recovery on October 16th at HCC. It is \\$25 register at Charm City Run.](#)
- [There is a wheelchair costume workshop on October 29th and volunteers are needed.](#)
- Dr. Bishai shared that the health department is getting funding to hire an MHAAC coordinator.
- Bari Klein shared that people can go to the [Healthy Harford website](#) for information on food access.

Upcoming Meetings:

- November 30, 2021

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