



Mental Health & Addictions
Advisory Council



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



**Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (MHAAC)
Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHC) Behavioral Health Workgroup
Harford County OOC Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)**

**Meeting Agenda | November 30, 2021 | 8:00-10:00 AM
Location: Virtual**

Call to Order & Introductions: Bari Klein, MHAAC Council Chair

Updates:

- **Health Department** – Marcy Austin
 - In FY 21 there were 13,079 Behavioral Health encounters, only a slight decrease from FY 20. Andrea Pappas has done a great job running the behavioral health bureau and they have had great success in a hybrid model by offering both telehealth and in-person services.
 - There is still a need for youth and adolescent services. The health department has hired 2 certified Nurse Practitioners and 1 counselor for youth and adolescents. These services will be added to 1 North Main Family Health Center.
- **Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency** – Jessica Kraus
 - Shawn and Jess put in a request with BHA to be designated as a Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) for the Office of Mental Health/CORE Service Agency and the health department, and received designation in November.
 - CORE Service Agency is working on a state hospital discharge initiative. They took a grant to assist local jurisdictions to help those with permanent housing. They are looking to hire a residential coordinator.
 - The [news and event tab](#) on the Office of Mental Health website has upcoming events.
 - There is an RFP for Edgewood Elementary and an RFP for William Paca Old Post for school of mental health.
- **Department of Community Services/Office of Drug Control Policy** – Tara Lathrop
 - The drug take-back day in October collected 1,693 pounds of medication. The event had a new location this year and we are hoping to expand in the future.
 - The Office of Drug Control Policy had a candlelight vigil with Rage Against Addiction at Mt. Zion. The event celebrated the lives of those that passed away and those in recovery.
 - Let Tara know if you are interested in helping with the Veterans Resource Fair.

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120 S. Hays Street
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410-877-2340

Harford County Government
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125 N. Main Street
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Office on Mental Health
Core Service Agency of Harford County
2231 Conowingo Road, Suite A
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- The Office of Drug Control Policy is working with partners to reach youth and are working with Ashley Addiction and The Clubhouse.
 - Laura Dahl from The Clubhouse shared that they received a grant from the Office of Mental Health and BHA and will be building out a location for expansion. There will be a media/press release coming out about this. The clubhouse is engaging with several applicants, having the strengthening families program, and partnering with Rage Against Addiction to have in-person events.
 - The Clubhouse is peer-based. Peers work with kids and families ages 12-17, 18 if in high school, and they must be a Harford resident. The target group is at-risk youth. The goal is to have a physical location soon. Services are also free. For more information visit www.ashleytreatment.com/clubhouse or email Laura Dahl at LDahl@ashleytreatment.org
- **UMUCH & Harford Crisis Center** – Jennifer Redding
 - Data for the Harford Crisis Center for September and October:
 - Urgent Care - saw 608 individuals (seeing more kids and adolescents).
 - Outpatient - saw 590 individuals
 - Residential beds - filled 6/8 beds on average
 - Jennifer shared that adolescents seem sicker than usual with suicide ideation, anxiety, and other mental health disorders. The crisis center is receiving a lot of referrals from schools and a handful of those that are referred are related to drug use.
 - The crisis center is still working on breaking down the stigma and they recorded a podcast with Rich Bennett about mental health.
 - Telehealth is still a powerful tool
 - The crisis center is presenting at the Addictions Conference about trauma and substance use.
 - Joyce Steinberg asked how the limited Behavioral Health providers are being addressed?
 - Jennifer said we have a robust referral system. The crisis center acts like a bridge to receiving care. The crisis center also works with the Office on Mental Health. The Health Department bringing on providers is a great step. Jennifer also shared that access to care seems to increase with telehealth still being an option.
 - Bari Klein shared that the ER is getting filled and many things can be better served in the urgent care. Healthy Harford has a flyer suggesting when to go to urgent care which will be sent out to the group.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)** – Shawn Martin
 - There is a new 3.3, 3.5 Substance Use Disorder Residential Program in Edgewood.
 - Project Chesapeake opened its doors earlier this month. This program is an inpatient setting that serves adult males. Project Chesapeake accepts private insurances as well as Maryland Medicaid. The program has a total of 36 beds. As of now they are only serving males. Project Chesapeake has other locations in Maryland where they treat adult women.
 - OOC OIT project update
 - FY 2022 OOC OIT funds, in the amount of \$153,576, was disturbed to Harford County's OIT. These funds were awarded to Addictions Connection Resource for the purpose of developing a Central Intake, Navigation and Recovery Team. The Central Intake, Navigation and Recovery Team project helps to connect

individuals with substance-related disorders to treatment and recovery support services.

- In the first quarter of this fiscal year ACR provided: 31 individuals were referred to peer recovery specialists. A peer recovery specialist referred all 31 individuals to treatment and recovery services. 5 of the individuals referred to treatment were admitted to treatment; and 31 of the individuals referred to recovery services were admitted to a recovery service (the recovery service type is Recovery Residences).
- OD Deaths for January 3, 2021, through August 22, 2021. Note that this data is not final and can be changed
 - 67 fatal overdoses
 - Age breakdown
 - 8 percent were below the age of 25
 - 24 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34
 - 28 percent were between the ages of 35 and 44
 - 21 percent were between the ages of 45 and 55
 - 19 percent were over the age of 55
 - Gender breakdown: 76 percent were male and 24 percent were female
 - Race breakdown: the highest percentages in race included white and black
 - 65 percent were white
 - 14 percent were black
 - Location breakdown
 - 21 percent of all deaths have occurred in Aberdeen
 - 16 percent of deaths have been in Edgewood
 - 11 percent in Bel Air
 - 8 percent in Abingdon; and
 - 6 percent in Joppa
 - Mary Hastler from the libraries asked if the data sent out to be looked at more closely.
- **Harford County Emergency Services** – Edward Hopkins
 - No updates

Community Announcements/Discussion: All

- Don Mathis shared that in DC emerging nitazenes, synthetic opioids are very powerful. Xylazine may be an additive being discussed.
 - Jen Redding said there is an increase in Benzos.
 - Zach Kosinski said Xylazine is nothing new.
 - Don Mathis said this is confirmed by forensics.
- Mary Hastler said the libraries could be a good location option for The Clubhouse
- Joyce Steinberg asked about payment options in regard to urgent care.
 - Jen Thomas said as soon as people walk in for urgent care they ask for a credit card which is a barrier.
 - Mary Hastler shared they can't refuse services.
 - Jen Redding said the crisis center does not require a credit card. We ask for insurance but if they don't have it we connect them with the health department. We won't turn them away.

- Amber Shrodes shared that there is a resource fair at Mt. Zion with housing partners, food pantry, etc. from 4-7pm on December 1st. There will also be Santa and crafts for kids. Additionally, on January 8th at Mt. Zion there will be a cellphone safety workshop for kids 10-14. The event is free and lunch is available. Community Services is looking for volunteers (they are trained 30 minutes before. More information can be found on the [Harford County Government Community Services webpage](#).
 - Mt. Zion is located - 1643 Churchville Rd, Bel Air, MD 21015
 - Reach out to Tara Lathrop or Megan Murdock if you have questions about the cellphone safety workshop trlathrop@harfordcountymd.gov 410-638-3333
- Bob Sears shared that the residential women's program in Joppa through Pyramid Walden is almost completed. They can accept females in January. Pyramid Walden currently has 52 beds for males and we have a residential facility in southern MD for females. They are in need of counselors and nurses.
 - Contact Bob Sears, Pyramid Walden for more information - 717-858-7447.
- Mary Hastler thanked Marcy and the health department team for 1300 test kits. They were very popular at library branches.
- Silvana Bowker said they are having a 2022 Youth Resource Festival at Harford Community College. We have 30 vendors registered already and will have sponsorship opportunities. Registration for families will open in February.
- Bari Klein shared that youth and adolescent health seems to be a focus goal for 2022 based on today's discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

- January 25, 2022

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