



Mental Health & Addictions  
Advisory Council



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



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

**Meeting Agenda | January 25, 2022 | 8:00-10:00 AM  
Location: Virtual**

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

**Special Topic:**

Paula Nash, Harford County Health Department, Tracy Kelly, Harford County Office on Mental Health, Core Service Agency – Co-chairs, Suicide Prevention Workgroup (SPW)

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10-34
- Suicide rate has increased 35% since 1999
- LGBTQ community is 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth. \*Additional statistics can be found on the PowerPoint attached.
- Most suicides involve poisoning (overdoses) and firearms.
- Klein Family Harford Crisis Center has seen an increase in youth with suicidal ideation
- SPW is active in education regarding safe storage of firearms
- SPW is hoping to expand membership, engaging military and faith-based communities.
- Four main strategic goals:
  - **Goal 1:** Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors/settings.
  - **Goal 2:** Develop, implement, and monitor effective programs that promote wellness and prevent suicide and related behaviors.
  - **Goal 3:** Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services. Promote the adoption of “zero suicides” as an aspirational goal by health care and community support systems that provide services and support to defined patient populations.
  - **Goal 4:** Increase the timeliness and usefulness of surveillance systems relevant to suicide prevention and improve the ability to collect, analyze, and use this information for action.

Discussion - Cathy Lozinak brought up that suicide prevention information would be helpful for those that interact with people who have overdosed. Zach Kosinski from HCHD Harm Reduction says there are suicide prevention leave behind bags that are to be left by Emergency Responders at the scene of an overdose with information to prevent future overdoses. It is up to the responding Emergency Responders to follow thru, but he will follow up with Cathy to see where the additional training can be added to address the lack of compliance in this incident and improve systems.

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## **Standard Meeting Report Updates:**

### **Health Department/Behavioral Health - Marcy Austin and Andrea Pappas**

- COVID-19 update: The positivity rate and cases have steadily declined. As of 1/24 the positivity rate in Harford was 18.89%, and the case rate was 67.35 per 100,000.
  - The Woodbridge office offering vaccines and boosters by appointment 5 days a week.
  - HCHD hosting pop-up clinics for Title I schools for ages 5-11
  - HCHD will continue to distribute at-home Covid 19 test kits to the public as they receive them. Latest giveaway of 1700 kits was at the VEIP station on 1/23. Public library system has been a great help with community distribution
  - HCHD will be distributing KN95 masks to the public this week
  - Covid 19 testing: State site at Ripken is seeing 200-300 people a day. Site at Upper Chesapeake is still operating 7 days a week.
  - HCHD Behavioral Health (BH) Dept. is seeing clients both in person and virtually. Issues at the state with network security incident has caused a little slow down in services.
  - The HCHD continues to work with partners for referrals.
  - BH is looking to hire staff for the cash assistance program.

### **Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency – Jessica Kraus**

- [Suicide Bereavement Clinician Training Program](#) March 15-16 for those surviving the suicide of a loved one. \*Flyer attached in the email with the minutes.
- Maryland Benefits Counseling Network is sponsoring a 1 hour [Rehabilitation and Supported Employment: How do they intersect](#) training session, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am -
- Strategic plan for the LAAC will be shared at the March MHAAC meeting.

### **Department of Community Services/Office of Drug Control Policy – Tara Lathrop**

- The Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) is collaborating with the HCHD to host regular Peer Recovery Specialist (PRC) workgroup. First meeting Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, lunchtime. Contact Greg Frailey, gregory.frailey@maryland.gov for invite.
- The [Strengthening Families Program](#) to be held virtually in the evenings on Tuesdays February 22<sup>nd</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursdays from February 24<sup>th</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup>. Flyer attached.
- The SPW will focus on veterans and first responders. Offering a Mental Health First Aid training for APG and first responders.
- ODCP will be updating the Harford Talks website
- The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention will be offering a virtual training the end of Feb/beginning of March.

### **UMUCH/KF Harford Crisis Center, HC Trauma Informed Steering Committee – Jennifer Redding**

- Update on the behavioral health (BH) inpatient unit at UMUHC.
  - Dedicated Covid unit within the BH inpatient unit due to high # Covid positive patients
  - The UMUHC Aberdeen Campus (opening late 2023) will include a freestanding psychiatric facility including a psychiatric outpatient and day program.
- The Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC)
  - Started group therapy program in January to address coping skills/emotional regulation.
  - Patients served from July 1 to December 31 2021: Urgent Care - 1745, Residential – 1095 (average 6 of 8 beds filled per day), Outpatient - 1813 patients.
- Harford County Trauma Informed Steering Committee (HCTI)
  - Steering Committee will regroup in 2022 and report out to the MHAAC. All are welcome to participate. Meetings are monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:15 to 10:30. First meeting January 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact [sreilly@umm.edu](mailto:sreilly@umm.edu) if interested.

### **Local Addictions Authority (LAA) – Shawn Martin**

- No new fatal overdose information, due to the MDH internet security incident. No known timeline for when information would be made available.

- On January 19th, the Office of Population Health Improvement (OPHI) announced that non-fatal case information is now available for review on the Overdose Fatality Review Dashboard, made possible from data from CRISP and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services. There is a possibility that information may not be comprehensive due to missing information. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, Shawn is working closely with the OPHI to learn: (1) what type of information can be shared, and discussed; and (2) are interventions are allowed, and best practices for making contact with survivors.

### **Community Announcements:**

Bob Sears

- Pyramid Health is able to open 6 rehabilitation beds in February if you want to take a tour.  
Contact: rsears@pyramidwalden.com, 717-858-7447

Amber Shrodes

- Women of Tomorrow grades nominations for women grads 7-12.
- The Youth and Family Festival is on April 9th. There are 60 vendors already. [Learn more here.](#)
- Project Connect (formerly Project Homeless Connect) will be on April 28th at the Epicenter. Event is in person and will include regular services minus dental (due to Covid). Advertising is via social media and direct email to participating agencies.

Tara Lathrop shared that there will be a domestic violence training next month.

**Next Meetings:** March 29, 2022