



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 (LHIC) Behavioral Health Workgroup  
Harford County OOC Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)**

**Meeting Minutes | March 29, 2022 | 8:00-10:00 AM**

**Location: Virtual**

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

**Strategic Plan Presentation**

- Jessica Kraus, Director of the Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency, and Shawn Martin, Director of the Local Addictions Authority presented their Local Behavioral Health Annual Plan (LBHA).
  - As required by Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration (MDH BHA), the Local Behavioral Health Annual Plan was presented to the MHAAC for feedback and comments. Any feedback and comments will be integrated and the final copy will be sent to the BHA on March 31st. Following the submission, a meeting will take place on April 13th with BHA, after which the plan should be official pending any modifications.
  - The presentation is attached in the email, if you have any feedback or questions, please email Jessica and Shawn at [jkraus@harfordmentalhealth.org](mailto:jkraus@harfordmentalhealth.org) and [shawn.martin@maryland.gov](mailto:shawn.martin@maryland.gov)
  - New developments and challenges
    - LBHA discussed Youth Crisis Expansion, State Hospital Discharge Initiative

**Updates:**

- **Harford County Health Department (HCHD)** – Andrea Pappas
  - HCHD staff have returned to the office and are providing in person clinical services. Telemedicine is still available upon request.
  - Disruptions resulting from the MDH network security incident still linger, but they are starting to work themselves out.
  - The HCHD is still receiving referrals from the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC) and others.

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

- The HCHD has hired a nurse practitioner. Several openings for counselors, case managers, and additional nurse practitioners remain. They are also seeking a child and adolescent counselor and social worker for the new 1 North Main Family Health Center.
- **Harford County Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency** – Jessica Kraus
  - The primary update was the Local Behavioral Health Annual Plan presentation.
  - Dr. Aliya Jones, Deputy Secretary of BHA is resigning as of mid-May 2022.
  - Angela Gray, Child and Adolescent Services Coordinator/ TAMAR Facilitator shared some events for May- Mental Health Awareness Month
    - The Office of Mental Health is working with coalitions to raise awareness around mental health including a press release, social media posts, PSAs, yard signs, etc.
    - **May 7<sup>th</sup>** – partnership event with the Ed Lally Foundation. Public screening of the [Power of Expression Documentary](#). The Power of Expression is an unplugged style music documentary that shares the healing journey of Jordan Lally and his band, The Big Infinite following the loss of Jordan's father. The event will be hosted in the evening at Shamrock Park in downtown Bel Air. There will be live music from The Big Infinite, food trucks, vendors and more. Please see attached for more information.
    - **May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Partnership with Harford County Government, the KFHCC, and many mental health and wellness providers for a free family event at Ripken Stadium. Event includes with mindfulness, food vouchers, vendors, and a screening of the movie, Soul.
    - Using butterflies as a symbol of transformation and hope, the Office on Mental Health is looking for Harford County residents willing to get *Fluttered* – by having their front lawn covered in butterfly yard signs. These signs will then be passed on to other residents in hopes of creating mental health awareness. Program begins May 13th.
- **Department of Community Services/Office of Drug Control Policy** – Tara Lathrop
  - **April 15<sup>th</sup>** - Pledge Program at Epicenter from 9-5 (flyer included in email).
  - Academic detailing, the idea of educating medical professionals about opioid medications and giving alternatives, has been expanded to include pharmacists.
  - **April 9<sup>th</sup>** from 9-2 - Family Resource Festival at Harford Community College (flyer included in email).
  - The Office of Drug Control Policy is working with the Bridge Program which attempts to reach youth at a younger age through a partnership with juvenile services.
  - **April 30<sup>th</sup>** - Drug Take Back Day (flyer included in email).
  - **April 6<sup>th</sup>** from 11:30-1 peer coalition group. The Office of Drug Control Policy has been working with the Harm Reduction Unit at the HCHD to build this coalition. The coalition connects peers and care coordination support. Voices of Hope

provides the space. Contact Tara for more information

[trlathrop@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:trlathrop@harfordcountymd.gov).

- **April 28th** from 9-3 - Project Connect (flyer included in email). It is free to be a vendor and the deadline is April 1st to sign up. The goal is to have a recovery section at the event.
- Cathy Lozinak requested information on local recovery houses for men. She noticed that the health department's website has a few listed, but she called Voices of Hope and they were unable to give information over the phone about recovery house placement which was problematic if you are unable to drive to meet in person to receive this information.
  - Tara shared that a workgroup has been formed with the recovery houses in Harford County and will be having a meeting on April 1st to discuss a unified standard of practice. The meeting should help with creating a more streamlined list. She said that Voices of Hope requested an in-person intake with the individual to best assess the situation and ideal fit.
  - Zach Kosinski said he will send a recovery house resource guide. He shared that sometimes people like to go through care coordination and sometimes they want to go directly themselves.
  - [Angela Gray shared a link to the list of recovery houses.](#)
- **UMUCH & Klein Family Harford Crisis Center** – Jennifer Redding
  - Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC)
    - Jennifer Redding said the current demand for youth care has been increasing, especially for adolescents. Thus far, they have been able to accommodate all adolescents that have been sent to them.
    - Crisis center statistics from July 1st, 2021 - February 28th, 2022
      - Residential - 2,225 served
      - Urgent Care – 1,414 served
      - Outpatient – 2,692 served
    - The KFHCC has hired an additional youth therapist to keep up with demand. This therapist can see ages 5 and older for outpatient services (therapists have previously seen 5 and older for urgent care). The crisis center has also hired 3 nurse practitioners.
    - An adult group has started 3 days a week, one hour a day and people can attend 1-3 times a week. The group focuses on stress management, coping strategies, and anger management. Please contact Jennifer at [Jennifer.redding@umm.edu](mailto:Jennifer.redding@umm.edu) for more information.
    - There is also a new weekly adolescent group therapy group. Though set up for those in teen court, others outside of Teen Court can be added.
  - UMUCH
    - There have been 47 emergency petitions for the month of February 2022 and of those 22 were admitted to the hospital.

- The free-standing Medical and Behavioral Health facility in Aberdeen is still planning for a late spring/early summer 2023 opening. This facility will replace programs that are currently at Harford Memorial including inpatient, psychiatric day program, and outpatient.
- Training opportunities:
  - HOPE facilitator training available. This program is the next progression of ACEs, and focuses on the healing effects of positive childhood experiences.
  - Angela Gray concurred that the HOPE model is great, and inquired about any other additional training.
    - Jennifer said there is Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for adults which is evidence-based. There is also DBT for adolescents and the curriculum will depend on who is in the group. They are concerned about the safety of those impacted by substance use.
- The Harford County Trauma Institute is now an active sub-workgroup of the MHAAC. It meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at 9:15. The group is looking at state initiatives and will be writing a position paper. The goal of this workgroup is to make Harford County trauma- informed. ACEs are one piece of this, but the group is looking with a broader lens at trauma as a whole. The group is looking to educate and serve business communities beyond traditional partners. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Jennifer or Bari at bklein@umm.edu.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA) – Shawn Martin**
  - The main update was the Local Behavioral Health Annual Plan, see above
  - The LAA has also been working on the Overdose Fatality Review Annual Plan.
    - As of last week, the LBHA started to receive Fatal overdose data from the Vital Statistics Administration (VSA). Note that this data is preliminary and is subject to change. Data for Calendar Year 2022 consists of the following:
      - 14 total fatal overdoses
      - 12 opioid-related
      - 11 Fentanyl-related
      - 6 cocaine-related
      - 10 occurred in Harford County
    - Aberdeen had the highest number of fatal overdoses occurrences in Harford County- totaling 4.
    - Cathy Lozinak asked if overdose fatality statistics will be posted throughout Harford at the state police station like it used to be, but it was reported by Katie York that the signs have been removed. She is unsure why.

## **Cancer and Mental Health**

- Susan Twigg, Megan Casem, Karrie Schnauer from the HCHD, and Corrie Reed and Adriana Orsi from UMUH presented a Powerpoint on available cancer services for low income residents. Their presentation highlighted that those with mental health concerns often do not receive timely screenings and are at greater risks for poor health outcomes.
  - The presentation provided in depth details on cancer screening programs for colorectal, breast, cervical, and lung cancer through a partnership between the Harford County Health Department and UM Upper Chesapeake Health. The presentation is included in this email.
  - Cathy Lozinak suggested that flyers for these cancer screening programs be provided to the homeless population through Welcome One or Rapid Housing. Susan Twigg concurred and will follow up. Representatives from the cancer group will also be present at the upcoming Project Connect event at the EpiCenter on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Community Announcements: All**

- No additional announcements.

## **Upcoming Meetings: May 31, 2022**

**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