



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 Minutes | September 27, 2022 | 8:00-10:00 AM
Location: Harford County EOC 2220 Ady Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050**

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

Special Topic | Opioid Incident Team (OIT) Update

- Robin Rickard, Opioid Operation Command Center Executive Director
- Overdose deaths increased slightly in 2021, but most recently death rates have been on the decline.
- Looking at 2021 versus 2022 data (Jan-May) there was a decline in all substances used in a fatal overdose, except for cocaine and methamphetamine.
- 2022-2024 Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan
 - Overarching Goal: Improve opioid-related morbidity and mortality
 - Supporting Goals: Improve Statewide Infrastructure for Opioid Initiatives, Promote Youth Resiliency, Increase Awareness of Substance Use Disorder, Expand Harm Reduction Services, Promote Comprehensive Care Coordination, Expand Maryland's Crisis Response System, Expand Access to Evidence-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder, and Support Recovery Communities
- FY23 Grant Announcement: Block Grant Award for Harford County Support for Central Intake, Navigation, and Recovery Team (\$147,247)
- ORF Oversight & Reporting Advisory Council is currently working on reviewing applications for the advisory council, which will begin its work on October 1, 2022, that will provide written recommendations and specific findings to the governor and secretary of health.

Updates:

- **Health Department Report** –Andrea Pappas
 - The Behavioral Health Bureau welcomed a new medical assistant, Kelley, and a care coordinator, Sara Gonzalez, to help with the integration of other programs.
 - HCHD has begun its process for CARF Accreditation for April 2023.
 - Continued to recruit additional staff to meet our increased demands for services and are looking to onboard an additional youth and adolescent counselors and a nurse practitioner this fall.

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- One of the child and adolescent therapists and/or case manager will eventually be working closely with our 1 North Main project to provide mental health counseling to those families and children in need.
- Continue to look for a provider to fill our vacant Temporary Cash Assistance position, which is a grant funded position housed within Department of Social Services that serves to connect those interested in receiving temporary cash assistance with substance use treatment they may need.
- Worked with community partners during month of September for Recovery Month
- **Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency – Jessica Kraus**
 - The Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency and Local Addictions Association (LAA) (the Harford County Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)) received information from Behavioral Health Authority (BHA) regarding low vaccination penetration rates among PBHS providers. The LBHA has reached out to those providers and will continue to engage with providers low to increase those numbers.
 - Currently Optum is working to recoupment funds from Providers they believe received an overpayment during the estimated payment period. Any providers who have not contacted Optum to set up a payment plan will have their claim clipped by 50%.
 - The LBHA is beginning to work on its annual plan. The guidelines have changed and will move to a three-year strategic plan with one-year updates. The LBHA will be sharing its plan at the January MHAAC meeting.
 - BHA is working alongside Medicaid to develop regulations for the mobile response, stabilization centers, and peer services. The current plan is to make certain Substance Use Disorder (SUD) peer services Medicaid reimbursable by March 2023, and mobile response/stabilization centers Medicaid reimbursable by July 2023.
 - Harford Crisis Response’s Hotline statistics:
 - For the fiscal year 2022, HCR’s hotline received 4,583 calls and made 2,695 outgoing calls. There were 842 mobile crisis team dispatches and 240 peer dispatches.
- **Department of Community Services/Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) – Tara Lathrop**
 - Recovery month was a success!
 - Harford County celebrated adult drug court graduates with a Graduation Tree unveiled in circuit court on September 12th. Judge Kevin J. Mahoney presides over Harford County Adult Drug Court
 - Recovery houses in the area were able to receive QPR (Question Persuade Refer) a suicide prevention training
 - Partnered with Recovery Centers of America to thank and connect specialists with each other.
 - Peer Networking and Professional Development Alliance developed in partnership with Addiction Connections Resource. This alliance will continue to help peers receive training, and up to date trends and best practices in the substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment communities as well as provide an opportunity for networking and sharing of resources.
 - Upcoming events include: Second Chance Job Fair on September 28th at the Epicenter; Mental Health First Aid at Level Fire House on October 15th (open to the public); Harford’s Most Beautiful on October 20th; Guiding their Path, parent/caregiver education nights discussing topics that impact youth, held at 4 library locations in the

month of October; November 16th will be the Annual Night of Conversation, where parents/caregivers are encouraged to talk without distractions and have a conversation about substance use, mental health and other topics that impact children and youth. Conversation starters can be found at Harfordtalks.com. If anyone would like handouts to share with the conversation starters, reach out to Tara.

- In partnership with HCPS, ODCP an all-day training session on October 24th for SADD (students against destructive decisions) and STARS (students taking a responsible stand) representatives from each school. Topics include mental health, substance use and addiction, healthy relationships, and social media.
- Informed members of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act and discussed the Bridge Program
- **UMUCH & Harford Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
 - The KFHC Urgent Care is open every day 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.
 - University of Maryland- Upper Chesapeake Health (UMUCH) Emergency Petition Data

Initiation/dispo	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD totals
Law Enforcement													
TOTAL	59	46											105
Admitted	34	21											55
Discharged	25	25											50
KFHCC													
TOTAL	7	6											13
Admitted	5	4											9
Discharged	2	2											4
Mobile Crisis	3	2											5

- Program Statistics

Program Statistics

	AVG / Day	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
Urgent Care	9.0	2031	3905	3282
Residential Crisis Beds	6.0	1274	2426	2189
OP Clinic	15.8	2447	4354	4024

Primary Guest Residence

- ❖ Bel Air
- ❖ Aberdeen
- ❖ Abingdon
- ❖ Edgewood
- ❖ Forest Hill
- ❖ Havre de Grace

Primary Diagnosis

- ❖ Depression
- ❖ Anxiety
- ❖ Substance Use Disorder

Office on Mental Health- Mobile Crisis Response
(August 2020 – June 2021)

4098 Calls
656 Dispatches

(YTD FY22)

4583 Calls
842 Dispatches

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- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA) – Shawn Martin**
 - Contingency Management: The Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, Clinical Services Adults, and Older Adults Division, Office of Treatment Services
 - Funding for this project is provided through the Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant (“COVID-19 Supplemental-SABG”) awarded to the State of Maryland by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
 - The Contingency Management Initiative supports the Contingency Management Voucher Based Reinforcement and Prize Incentive based approach. In Voucher Based Reinforcement, the patient received a voucher for activities related to treatment compliance, such as drug-free urine samples and other recovery-based activities. Prize Incentives apply similar principles as Voucher Based Reinforcement but use chances to win cash prizes between \$1 and \$75.
 - The Harford County Health Department, Local Behavioral Health Authority was awarded \$143,323 to subcontract with Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinics and Serenity Health, LLC to expand the Contingency Management services provided by the programs.
 - Point of Care Testing Initiative
 - The COVID-19 Point of Care Testing provides funding to ASAM Level (3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, and 3.7WM-Withdrawl Management) SUD Residential Treatment Facilities. The primary goal of this funding is to help mitigate the spread of the Novel Coronavirus-19 effort to enhance patient engagement and retention in treatment, and to support the diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19 infection among patients by providing onsite point of Care (POC) rapid and frequent testing kits using the molecular or antigen tests.
 - The Harford County Health Department, Local Behavioral Health Authority was awarded \$391,178 to subcontract with Pyramid Walden to support the purchase and use of Antigen Test Kits and Devices, PCR Test Kits and Devices, and Personal Protective Equipment.
 - The Opioid Operations Command Center (O OCC) announced its new Access to Recovery Emergency Gap Funds Grant Program. Through this program, the O OCC will distribute \$600,000 in funds that can be used to cover emergency expenses such as transportation, housing extended stays in recovery programs, and access to medication. Eligible Organizations include (1) Recovery Community Organizations and MCORR-certified Recovery Residences, (2) Local Health Departments, and (3) Local Behavioral Health Authorities. LAA reached out to the Recovery Residencies and we are hoping to see several applications submitted.
 - Peer Recovery Specialist Services Funding
 - LAA received notification from the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, Office of Community Based Access and Support that the target date for certified Peer Recovery Services to be billed to Medicaid is March 1, 2023. Grants funded by the Behavioral Health Administration that currently cover peers in these settings will no longer be renewed starting FY24. The Office of Community-Based Access and Support stressed the importance of those Peers working in Medicaid Provider Types 32 (Opioid Treatment Program) and

50 (Certified Addictions Outpatient) becoming credentialed to be able to bill for services. LAA is working with the Office on Community-Based Support to identify those Peers working in Provider Types 32 and 50, who are not credentialed, and whose salary is being paid by Behavioral Health Administration grant funds. Once identified my office and the Office of Community-Based Support will assist those peers with becoming credentialed.

Community Announcements: All

- The Harford County Health Department Minority Health Program announced that registration has begun for their next Youth Symposium for middle and high school girls. The symposium will be held on Friday, November 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at the Aberdeen EpiCenter. The event is free and will discuss topics such as the benefits of self-care, cyberbullying/ social media etiquette, and various mental health topics such as depression and anxiety. People can go to the Harford County Health Department Website for the flyer and learn how to register.
- Zachary Kosinski from Voices of Hope mentioned that their Bel Air services location has been expanding.
- The Ashley Adolescent Center serving youth at risk of a developing SUD is now open in Aberdeen: 1016 K Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

Upcoming Meetings:

- Tuesday, November 29, 2022 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Harford County EOC 2220 Ady Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050
- HCHD will provide a call-in number for this meeting for those who cannot attend in person:
 - Join by phone: (US) +1 405-656-0090 PIN: 270 408 150#

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