



Mental Health & Addictions  
Advisory Council



**Public Health**  
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**Harford County  
Health Department**




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

**Meeting Agenda | March 28, 2023 | 8:00-10:00 AM | Virtual**

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

- Bari Klein, MHAAC Council Chair, opened the meeting and thanked everyone who joined virtually.

**Special Topic | Draft Harford County Health Equity Report**

- Zill Raval, Epidemiologist, and Zach Macas, Health Policy Analyst, both with the Harford County Health Department Population Health Unit presented the draft findings for the Harford County Health Equity Report.
- The Health Equity report provides the county with an idea of where disparities and inequities exist. The report serves as an educational document for the health department and community partners to help create, promote, and strengthen programs.
- A written version of the draft presentation will be shared for feedback before final publication.
- High-priority health areas include:
  - Aberdeen (21001) - Mental Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention
  - Edgewood (21040) - Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Havre de Grace (21078) - Mental Health, Substance Exposed Newborns
- Bari Klein addressed the need to look into the number of primary care physicians in the area and for more incidence data.
- Felicia Hopkins discussed the connection between people who work part-time and health insurance and that many part-time workers do not get health insurance from their employers so then they will not go to a primary care doctor, but go to the emergency room when they need help.
- The data will be provided to committee members via email.

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- Any comments questions or remarks about the report can be directed to [ronya.nassar@maryland.gov](mailto:ronya.nassar@maryland.gov), [zill.raval@maryland.gov](mailto:zill.raval@maryland.gov), and [zachary.macas@maryland.gov](mailto:zachary.macas@maryland.gov)

#### Updates:

- Harford County Health Department (HCHD) Report** –Marcy Austin, Ronya Nassar, and Andrea Pappas
  - Medicaid enrollees need to renew annually and verify all information is correct. People who were due to renew in March 2020 have had their coverage extended to April 30, 2023 due to the pandemic. Up until April 30<sup>th</sup> applications can be taken over the phone.
    - There have been no closures since the pandemic started, so if someone started in March 2019 they need to renew starting this month (March 2023) since they didn't have to renew in March 2020.
    - HCHD's Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) did get a renewal list and will open on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm to assist clients to renew in the Havre de Grace office only at 2015 Pulaski Highway, Suite.
    - Health Insurance applications are not able to be taken over the phone starting April 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - Renewal letters are being sent, and MCHP employees have been reaching out via phone to those whose letters have been returned undeliverable. Connecting with individuals whose address and telephone number have changed/are not in service remains a challenge.
    - MCHP services end the month the individual turns 19 years old. Applicants than need to reapply as an adult
    - All applications that are incomplete and need additional documentation/information will be closed in April 2023 if the not complete.
    - To renew an application, visit the Harford County Health Department in Edgewood at 1321 Woodbridge Station Way, or in Bel Air at 120 South Hays Street Bel Air, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk in opportunities are available Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Havre de Grace office, 2015 Pulaski Highway, Suite D. You can also complete your application online at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](https://MarylandHealthConnection.gov)
    - For more information call 410-877-1040
  - Medicare:
    - Medical Assistance applicants who have turned 65 since March 2020 now have Medicare and need to apply for supplemental insurance through the Office on Aging (410) 638-3025 or the Local Department of Social Services (410) 297-6100
  - Save the date for the HCHD Minority Health Program Youth Symposium on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Aberdeen Festival Park. More details to follow.
  - The Maryland Department of Health released the 2021-2022 Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey data
    - For the first time the survey addressed mental health status, COVID-19, screen time, disability, and additional information on adverse childhood experiences. The survey findings show that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected the mental health of Maryland youth. The full Maryland 2021-22 YRBS/YTS results,

including state-level and jurisdiction-level data, are available here:

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Reports/Pages/YRBS-Main.aspx>

- The survey also finds a reduction in the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and marijuana for high school students. However, there was an increase in alcohol initiation and prescription drug misuse at the middle school level.
- Behavioral Health Bureau (BHB) Update
  - BHB had a successful CARF reaccreditation in early February 2023 and received successful accreditation status until 2026.
  - Since CARF, the BHB has begun looking at different ways to improve operations and maximize productivity while also continuing to recruit additional providers to meet growing demands.
  - A heavy influx of youth and adolescents continue to seek services. The BHB continues to look at ways to meet these demands and provide additional resources to these families in need.
- **Department of Community Services/Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) – Meg Kaiser**
  - IRIS Recovery Research Fellowship through the University School of Baltimore Social Work is focusing on research on quality improvement and are looking into the expansion of peer workforce throughout the state of Maryland. Meg has been leading the alliance and is focusing on education and training for peer recovery specialists. The second focus is quality improvement. Meg is researching and developing a curriculum for peers to help develop skills
  - Adult Drug Court had 27 graduates! Judge Mahoney was recognized for his support for this program.
  - Trained 31 individuals in Recovery Coach Academy Training. There will be Academy Training again in June 2023.
  - Held several mental health first aid trainings and trained 33 individuals in mental health first aid.
  - Upcoming events:
    - April 1<sup>st</sup> - Rage Against Addiction Recovery Walk
    - April 19<sup>th</sup> - QPR training
    - April 22<sup>nd</sup>
      - Addicted Play held at Mt Zion church
      - National Drug Takeback day from 10 am to 2 pm
      - Bel Air High School empowered, 8 am to 1 pm for high school students
    - April 27<sup>th</sup> - Project Connect, EpiCenter in Edgewood on
- **Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency – Jessica Kraus**
  - Request for Proposals (RFP) put out for an award through Behavioral Health Administration entitled RRP Deployed Staff was awarded to Shepherd Pratt. Currently working to get it up and running to have state managers assist with all of the state psychiatric hospitals.
  - The Office of Mental Health/ Core Service Agency will complete a brainstorm session to identify priority areas for any issue that affects the behavioral health system.
  - Harford Crisis Response numbers thru 2/28: 7638 incoming hotline calls, 1746 outgoing, total 9384; 425 mobile crisis team dispatches

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- Link to register for BHA's Regional Stakeholder Meetings  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJziPTNqhPC\\_9YV8sdhzQcKT0sGWF1iuzMPnJtKGBQFYsa9Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJziPTNqhPC_9YV8sdhzQcKT0sGWF1iuzMPnJtKGBQFYsa9Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Up coming event:
  - May 19<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm – Your Mind Matters, Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium for more information, please go to Harfordmentalhealth.org
- **UMUCH & Harford Crisis Center – Jennifer Redding**
  - Ed Lally Foundation: Suicide Bereavement: New to Grief Support Group 1st Wednesday of every month beginning 5/3 6 pm.; Quarterly men's mental health support group also beginning 5/3 @ 7:45 pm.
  - NAMI Family to Family support group: New group beginning 9/11 6-9 p.m. every Monday evening.
  - Jennifer is available for anyone to provide tours, lunch and learns, and provide information regarding the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center and mental health care in Harford County
  - Seeing an uptake in Pediatric patients and there is a need for child psychologists. Currently working on grants to bring more providers to the center.
  - Aberdeen UMUH will be separate from the Crisis center; all Harford Memorial services will go there and will go live the first week of February 2024. Will also provide tours
  - KFHCC Data: YTD (July 1- Feb. 28, 2023) Urgent Care: 2192; Outpatient Clinic: 3570; Residential Crisis Bed Program: 6 clients/day.
- **Local Addictions Authority (LAA) – Shawn Martin**
  - Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) announcement
  - OOCC FY24 Competitive Grant Program
  - Who's is Eligible:
    - State agencies, local governments (including local school systems), and private non-profit community-based partners
  - How to Apply:
    - The application deadline is Wednesday, April 6, 2023, at 5 p.m. EDT
    - Interested parties should review the Call for Proposals
  - Key Dates:
    - Application deadline: April 6, 2023, at 5 p.m. EDT
    - Award decisions June 22, 2023 (tentative)
    - Grant Period: July 1, 2023.
  - Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) announcement OOCC FY24 Block Grant Program
  - Purpose:
    - The purpose of the OOCC's Block Grant Program is to provide some level of funding (minimum of \$75,000) to all 24 OITs in Maryland in order to combat the opioid crisis in whatever manner they see fit.
    - OIT projects supported with OOCC funds can reflect a wide variety of locally identified priorities that align with the Inter-Agency Opioid
  - Coordination Plan and serve to meet some of the greatest needs around the state
    - Harford County FY24 Block Grant Program Allocation: \$148,282

- Key Dates:
  - Application deadline: May 1, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT
  - Award Letter and Budget Approval: June 12, 2023 (tentative)
  - Anticipated Period of Performance: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- Since 2018, Harford County's OIT has utilized its Block Grant funds to support recovery services provided by Addiction Connections Resource (ACR), including Peer Recovery support, and linkages to treatment and recovery housing.
- Using FY22 OOCB Block Grant Program funds, ACR was referred 136 individuals. All 136 individuals were seen by a Peer Recovery Specialists, and admitted to substance use disorder treatment and recovery housing.
- <https://beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov/grants/>
- **Harford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – Rick Ayers**
  - In the process of transitioning having all EMS services brought into County services so there will be paid EMS crews throughout the county working alongside volunteer fire.

#### **Community Announcements: All**

- Avery Meyer OOCB- Will be the point of contact for OIT and all community events with OOCB.
  - With the change of administration and leadership they are working on a strategic plan and will have that completed soon
  - Had an ORF advisory council (open to the public) yesterday and the meetings are held monthly.
- Angela Gray
  - Youth Mental Wellness Coalition met and got together and designed a flyer for families to educate them that suicidal ideations spike in the spring and give families what to look out for, local resources, and what to expect if you go to Kleins Family Crisis Center.
- Felicia Hopkins
  - Would like to gather info for parents for Youth Symposium in May and asked for anyone in the group to share their info to pass along to the parent session part of the youth symposium.
- Meg Kaiser
  - Recovery Month planning will begin soon anyone interested can email Meg Kaiser. (mtkaiser@harfordcountymd.gov)
- Silvana Bowker
  - Youth and Family Resource Festival - April 13, 2024 - Save the Date vendors and families! At APGFCU Arena from 9-1 pm.
- ACR
  - 1,000 logs and 400 in-person visits and also working on sober living houses networking and keeping accountability in the community and working to expand in those services
  - Total Peer services in 2022 -1,102.
- Bari Klein
  - Just received a grant from CHRC for diabetes and will put a case manager in the emergency department to help with education and support. Diabetes is correlated to depression so we are looking at how we can support them through physical help in addition they are working on a diabetes virtual support group and hopefully will have a

Spanish version of that in year 2. Hope to break down the generational cycle of diabetes and get families involved and not just those who are diagnosed.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Harford Community College, Chesapeake Center 401 Thomas Run Rd, Bel Air, MD 21015 (Entrance #2)

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