



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**

**Meeting Minutes | September 24, 2024 | 8:30-9:30 AM
Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES)**

Opening: Jennifer Redding

- Welcome and introductions.
- Challenging you all to do one thing each day to raise awareness for mental health and recovery.
- Review of the MHAAC Mission, Vision, and Values

Intercept Mapping Feedback: Jennifer Redding

- General Purpose and Goals
 - Strengthen ongoing collaboration amongst stakeholders in the community
 - Capitalizing on intercepts or opportunities
 - Taking a Now Wrong Door approach: consistent goal/mission across organizations/communities at each.
 - Provide centralized mechanism for those to learn, connect, and share resources.
 - Increase awareness of and access to resources and programs
 - Supporting comprehensive, coordinated responses to BH needs of residents.
- GOAL: **Identify** the behavioral health service array in Harford County and **Improve** collaboration within this service array.

CONTEXT: Individuals who experience mental illness/substance use disorder in Harford County

- **Intercept 1:** *First Individual Contact: Contact can come from anyone/anywhere in the community. First contact, identify, screen, and refer. Who did we miss?*
 - Court system
 - School Staff
 - Caregivers/Guardians for older adults and those with special needs
 - Ashley's Clubhouse
- **Intercept 2:** *Acute Care: Typically, in the Emergency Room or hospital setting. Evaluate, treat, and plan for discharge. Who did we miss?*
 - 988
- **Intercept 3:** *Care Transitions: After the behavioral health crisis is somewhat resolved, what next? This is follow up to ensure continuity of care. Who did we miss?*
 - Ashley's Clubhouse
 - Youth Empowerment Source (YES Program in Cecil County)
- **Intercept 4:** *Ongoing treatment and recovery support. What is already available? Who did we miss?*
 - New Day Wellness and Recovery Center
 - Local Care Team

- What's Next?
 - Share best practices for each intercept point that enhance positive behavioral health outcomes, specifically reducing the suicide rate in Harford County.
 - Identify any gaps/opportunities at each intercept point.
 - Develop an action plan that addresses behavioral health resource gaps/opportunities as a means of reducing the suicide rate.
 - Bring back best practice data for next meeting.
 - Comments:
 - It would be good to have a comprehensive list of everyone that provides these and when and where they are including the faith based care groups.
 - Review more research on suicide prevention so that we do not reinvent the wheel.
 - Look at the role of mental health first aid and how we can get more individuals trained in this is the county.

Community Health Resource Commission Grant (CHRC): Angela Gray and Laurie Rajala

Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports

Background

- In 2022, Maryland General Assembly included language to create a new Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports (Consortium) to help meet student behavioral health needs.
- The Maryland CHRC serves as the fiscal agent and provides staff support.
- National Center for School Mental Health is providing technical assistance.

Purpose

- Responsible for developing statewide framework to expand access to behavioral health services for MD students
- Goals:
 - Expand access to high-quality behavioral health related services
 - Improve student wellbeing
 - Foster positive classrooms
 - Promote sustainability through revenues from Medicaid, commercial insurance, and hospital benefits.

Awards

- CHRC awarded \$111 million to 129 grantees statewide. 7 in Harford County.
- Grants awarded to providers of BH services for students' pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.
 - Achieving True Self
 - Cook Center for Human Connection
 - Fresh Start Therapeutic Services
 - Harford County Boys & Girls Club
 - Nature Worx (Joppatowne High & Edgewood Middle)
 - Pivot Point
 - Thrive Behavioral Health

Role of Schools

- Coordination w/ local School Districts is required

- A MOU was developed between HCPS and each provider
- School are only eligible to receive staff trainings and support, but not direct funding.
- Contact Laurie Rajala, Youth Services Program Manager at Irajala@harfordmentalhealth.org

Non-Smoking Signs: Ronya Nassar

- Signs available for those interested

2024 Community Health Needs Assessment: Ronya Nassar

- <https://harfordcountyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CHNA-2024.pdf>

Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, November 26th, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Harford County Department of Emergency Services 2220 Ady Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050

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