



---

**Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (MHAAC)  
Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHC) Behavioral Health Workgroup**

**Meeting Minutes | January 28, 2025 | 8:30-9:30 AM  
Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES)**

**Opening:** Jennifer Redding

- Welcome and introductions
- Review of the MHAAC Mission, Vision, and Values
- Goal: Identify, the BH service array in HC
  - Improve collaboration within the service array to reduce the suicide rate in HC
- Objectives:
  - Develop tailored BH intercept map for Harford County in order to better understand gaps/opportunities specifically related to reducing the suicide rate.
  - Strengthen partnerships and awareness among Harford stakeholders and the business communities
  - Gain understanding about key best practices specific to positive BH outcomes
  - Develop and implement an action plan that enhances current BH resources and addresses gaps/opportunities

**Intercept Mapping Progress:** Jennifer Redding

***Intercept 0/0.5: Law Enforcement Interaction/Co-Responder Effort (new addition)***

Intercept 1: Identify, Screen, and Refer

Intercept 2: Evaluate, Treat, and Plan for discharge

Intercept 3: Follow-up to ensure continuity of care

Intercept 4: Provide support to enhance recovery/wellness

- The county has identified a Co-Responder model
  - Addressing /adding to our work to ensure it is a seamless and effective effort in an attempt to meet people where they are.
- Literature review: creates a more immediate and improved response to crisis situations
  - Ability to follow up with individuals, family members, and caregivers after a crisis to reduce the likelihood of further crisis situations.
  - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).
  - More accurate on scene needs assessments
  - Studies suggest that the use of force was only 4.2% of incidents involving a co-responder team compared to 12.1% of similar incidents without.
  - Individuals in crisis were more likely to be referred to community services when the co-responder team was involved in the intervention (29.5% compared to 4.5% of police only incidents).

- Problems we have seen are that law enforcement and mental health want to do things their own way and sometimes don't collaborate the best during crisis situations.
- Identifying gaps/opportunities at each intercept point
  - Best practices/resources: 7 Categories
  - CDC Prevention strategies
- Begin discussing action planning/process

**What's Next?**

- Identify current behavioral health resources at each intercept point
- Share best practices for each intercept point that enhance positive BH outcomes, specifically reducing the suicide rate.
- Identify any gaps/opportunities at each intercept point. **What will we prioritize in our action plan?**
- Develop and action plan that addresses BH resources gaps/opportunities as a means of reducing the suicide rate in HC.
- Implement the action plan.

**Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 @ 8:30-9:30 a.m. Harford County Department of Emergency Services 2220 Ady Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050**

**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  
15 S. 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**