



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 | February 10, 2026 | 8:30-9:30 AM
Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES)**

Opening: Jennifer Redding

- Welcome
- Review of the MHAAC Mission, Vision, and Values

Intercept Mapping Updates: Jennifer Redding

- Action Planning phase: (Updates)
Shift to Suicide Prevention Workgroup (meetings held on the 1st Thursday of each month)

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) review: Ronya Nassar

- Priority 1: Behavioral Health
 - Strategy A: Review and bring awareness to the abundance of behavioral health resources in Harford County
 - Finalize intercept mapping process
 - Identify best advertising practices for pushing out information
 - Strategy B: Reduce Suicides
 - Create a county-wide suicide communications campaign
 - Identify and review evidence-based practices
 - Adopt evidence-based suicide prevention practices
 - Strategy C: Improve mental health and substance use collaboration throughout the county
 - Update coalition members on mental health and substance use data

**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**

- Establish a central access point for community members seeking public training, education, and awareness efforts in Harford
 - Find universal screening tools for mental health
- Suicide Data
 - Age-adjusted suicide rate has increased since 2022 and is now higher than the state again (12.9 per 100,000)
 - High school students who seriously considered suicide, most recent data from YRBS survey 2022-2023 was 80.1% of students said yes.
 - Firearm-related fatalities in Harford (2020-2024): 9.7 per 100,000. Maryland Avg: 11.5 per 100,000
 - Firearm-related Homicides in Harford: 3.3 per 100,000

Firearm Grant Opportunity: Ronya Nassar

- Gun Vault Giveaway – 320 devices distributed
- Reducing Gun Violence in Maryland Through Prevention, Intervention and Response
- \$200,000 per award. Applications due by February 20, 2026 at 2 PM.
- **Pillar I - Prevention & Assessment: Stopping violence before it occurs.**
 - **Extreme Risk / Domestic Violence Protective Order firearm surrender**
 - **Safe firearm storage programs**
 - **Violence reduction plans or fatality review councils**
 - **Lethal means safety counseling**
 - **Research, evaluation, and needs assessments**
- Pillar II – Intervention & Response: Interrupting violence and preventing recurrence
- Pillar III – Community Resilience & Healing: Addressing root causes and supporting recovery
- MDH Priority Emphasis:
 - Data Driven need
 - Community engagement
 - Evidence informed or evidence-based approach
 - Alignment with MDH public health framework
- Harford County Health Department
 - Handout safe storage devices (partner with local groups to help hand them out)
 - Educate local gun owners and gun shops
 - Research, evaluation, and needs assessments
- Create an updated registration form with more demographic data
- Materials will be distributed with the vaults themselves with education and information.
- HCPS – schools do speak on this topic during health class, but do not have a specific class regarding guns/safety/violence.

**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**

BH Strategic Plan

- Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) – Strategic Plan and Report
- Goal 1: reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses by expanding harm-reduction services, strengthening post-overdose engagement, & focusing on support in priority communities
- Goal 2: Strengthen crisis response capacity and increase community awareness of behavioral health services
- Highlights & Achievements
 - Maryland CHRC Hub and Spokes
 - Drug Court Peer Recovery Specialist Program
 - Family Intervention Specialist
 - State CC Program
 - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
- New Developments/Challenges
 - Establishment of Harm Reduction Hotline
 - CC Program staffing
 - Naloxone Inventory Discrepancy Identified through External Review
 - Discontinuation of the Syringe Disposal Kiosk
- Data & Planning
 - General Data
 - Overdose & Suicide Ideation Data
 - Outstanding Data
- Next Steps
 - Obtain data from Carelon to complete the TCM Analysis and finalize data & planning section
 - Submit plan once report from Carelon is received (LBHAs will have 30 days to submit)
 - Gather BHA input from plan review, update plan if needed
 - Submit final plan to BHA

Discussion

- A question was asked on where are the best places to send individuals with substance use issues and for harm reduction that have Peer Specialists. Shawn Martin mentioned there are many places for treatment and also mentioned the Klein Center, Harford County Health Department, Voices of Hope, Harford Crisis Response, and Upper Chesapeake.

Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 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**