

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council

Legislative Retreat: A Call to Advocacy Minutes

Saturday, January 19, 2019

9:00am – 1:30pm

1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

1st Floor Large Conference Room

Voting Members Present:

**Elyse Grossman, Kabir Singh, Sherry Beach, Edwin "Bunny" Rich,
Larry Simmons, Margaret Mattson, Evelyn Saim-Lobos, Cynthia
Wright, Veronica Wright, Dawinder "Dave" Sidhu**

Ex-Officio Members Present:

**Hardy Bennett (DHHS), Cho Man (BOLC), Michael "Mike" Subin
(OCE)**

Overview

The goal of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC) is to express the views of the community in the formulation and administration of alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment services in Montgomery County. Members of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council serve as community representatives, who provide guidance to the County Executive and the County Council in identifying prevention and treatment needs and reviewing the county's efforts in addressing those needs. The Advisory Council will make recommendations in support of, or to improve, current prevention and treatment efforts. The AODAAC also serves as the local drug and alcohol abuse council and submits a bi-annual strategic plan to the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.

A call to order: The retreat was called to order at 9:00am by Elyse Grossman, Chair. With 13 attendees, 10 voting members were present for the training.

Advocacy & the Legislative Branch

Elyse gave a presentation on Montgomery County's size, race and origin, change in racial/ethnic makeup with public school students and Montgomery county's income/wealth followed by Montgomery County's government structure along with process for passing legislative. The last presentation was on the Maryland General Assembly along with process for passing legislative. All leading to how AODAAC can get involved in both processes of Montgomery County and the Maryland General Assembly.

Submitting Written Testimony

Elyse gave a presentation on why one should write testimony. She went into depth on the structure of the written testimony with educated examples on what to write and what not to write to get the attention of the reader stressing that you should include personal stories along with statistics and proposed solutions.

Presenting Oral Testimony

Elyse gave a presentation on how and why you should give oral testimony. She went into depth on the basics, preparing and especially practicing your oral testimony along with preparation of possible questions asked to you by whomever you are testifying and being honest if you don't know an answer to questions presented to you. Also, imperative to keep your oral testimony to time allotted to you because there will be a buzzard and interruption by those listening to you.

Descriptive Overview of Current Proposed Legislation

Cynthia and Dave gave summaries of proposed bills in the Maryland General Assembly (Senate & House). The following proposed bills were discussed in small groups and will be presented with proposed written testimony to all members of AODAAC at the February Meeting for discussion:

- HB 25 Public Health – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Revisions
- HB 27 Clean Indoor Air Act – Use of Electronic Cigarette Devices – Prohibition
- HB 33 Medical Cannabis – Provider Applications – Opioid Use Disorder
- SB 28 Health Insurance – Coverage Requirements for Behavioral Health Disorders – Short-Term Limited Duration Insurance

The Retreat adjourned at 1:30pm.

