

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 12, 2019

7:00- 9:00 pm

401 Hungerford Drive Rockville, MD 20850

1st Floor Large Conference Room

Voting Members Present: Elyse Grossman, Anaum Kahn, Margaret Mattson, Ed Bunny Rich, Evelyn Saim-Lobos, Larry Simmons, Kabir Singh, Celia Young

Others: Hardy Bennet, Anthony Sturgess, Gabriela Mazon-Reynolds, Raimee Eck

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 meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Elyse Grossman, Chair. With 8 voting members, numbers were insufficient to have a quorum and therefore no voting took place. Introductions were made and November meetings were held for approval at the January meeting.

Updates

Four AODAAC members and two guests participated in the Silver Spring Thanksgiving parade. Elyse encouraged others to participate if AODAAC is to continue participate in the parade. It is anticipated that in the future the wait time for the start of the parade will not be as long.

The Marijuana Forum was a success with excellent speakers and breakout sessions, although the overall turnout was less than expected. Proximity to the holidays and bad weather contributed to lower attendance.

The County Mental Health Advisory Council is seeking new members; applications are welcome.

AODAAC Spring Forum—five members volunteered to be on the planning committee.

The January AODAAC meeting will be on Saturday 1/11 (or 1/18) from 10 to noon and will be our annual Legislative Forum. Confirmation of date pending location of available county meeting space. Legislative procedures will be briefly reviewed and pending legislation discussed. Volunteers are requested to help with writing testimony so that AODAAC can be represented at the hearings.

Future speakers were discussed, including the County Executive, States Attorney, and representatives from Arise and Flourish, the group involved in the implementation of the initiative of the Prevention committee to bring education on vaping into the schools.

Guest speaker

Dr Eck, Immediate Past President of the Maryland Public Health Association, spoke about harms and legal consequences of drug use. Excess risk for violent crimes is high among those who exceed safe limits (1 drink per day for women and 2 drinks per day for men) which constitutes 15% of drinkers in Montgomery county, with a range of 14% to 20% in the state. Alcohol became ingrained in the environment as immigrants brought the drinking culture to the country. Additionally, a lack of early regulation contributed. After 13 years of prohibition, which was unsuccessful in reducing harms, states took over regulation. Regulation has been shown to reduce harms, protect health, contribute tax revenue, and reduce the illegal market.

Dr Eck conducted a comparative descriptive study of 25 jurisdictions in which state regulation was the primary control mechanism, with three jurisdictions part state control and part private. She found that there is considerable variation in control processes across states. Proven intervention methods to reduce harms include Dram Shop laws, enforcement of laws against sales to minors, limitation of regional density of alcohol establishments, increased taxation of alcohol products, limitation of days and hours of sales and prevention of privatization of sales.

Penalties for infractions are determined by the LCB with no mandatory minimum and may be administrative or suspension of liquor license. Depending on the jurisdiction, partnership between police and the LCB is variable.

In another activity, Dr Eck described a case study in which there was a conflict of interest between the LCB chair and an elected official (MD Comptroller). The regulations favored business and economic advantage and the public health consequences were not considered. The work of the Association helped to establish realization of the link between availability, consumption and negative outcomes. A new Task Force was established in which public health concerns were more equitably represented, and subsequently alcohol matters were removed from the purview of the Comptroller. A new full time position for a commissioner of alcohol and tobacco was established. These measure increase education and advocacy for best practices in alcohol control.

Reports

LCB announced the kick off of a competition for winners of a contest among youth to develop a 30 second PSA . Entries close on 2/28; 5 to 8 awards are expected which will consist of prizes for the winners' schools.

The Treatment and Recovery Committee reported that they have scheduled a resource fair/coffee house event for March 14 from 1 to 3 PM that will include an open mike opportunity for organizations with resources.

Prevention Committee announced that Laura Mitchell will co chair the committee along with Margaret Mattson. A vision for the school educational program on vaping was drafted by Larry who also requested key materials from the program developers, Arise and Flourish, for the committee to review for discussion at the next meeting.

The Legislative Committee did meet and hence did not report.

The Department of Corrections reported that the anticipated start date for the jail based MAT program is January 1, when all three opiate medications will be offered to inmates in 4 MD counties, with subsequent phasing in for other jurisdictions. Eventually it is planned that jails participating in the program will become OTPs and hence eligible to dispense methadone.

HHS reported that the county's initiative to unify and standardize opiate programs continues. If funding is approved, Avery Road may develop a 24/7 admission capability. Appointment of a support person for ADOAAC is pending.

New Business

Tree of Hope mentioned their ethics training course for counsellors and a suicide website called Safe Talk.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM