

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday February 10, 2022, 7:00- 9:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Voting Members Present: Laura Mitchell, Margaret Mattson, Valerie Adelson, Elysse Grossman, Ed “Bunny” Rich, Doreen Rubin, Zayn Bandukwalla, Nick Borowski, Hannah Sheklow, Cristina Rabadan, Elizabeth Leek, Malliga Iyer, Evelyn Saim-Lobos

Ex-Officio Members Present: Hardy Bennett, Corey Berman, Dr. Rolando Santiago, Suzy Malagari, Victoria Virador, Sara Rose, Dr. Kyle Potter, Celia Serkin, Ben Stevenson II, Amy Samman

Guests Present: Britney Perndreca, Kevin Hayes, Hanna-Sophia Shine, Richard Dick Kunkle, Latonia Rich

Call to order. Laura Mitchell, Chair, called the Zoom videoconference meeting to order at 7:05pm. With 10 voting members, a quorum was present. AODAAC voting members approved drafted December minutes.

Combatting Overdoses in Rural Areas (CORA) Student Group at University of Maryland College Park

e-mail: cora.umd@gmail.com or bperndreca112@gmail.com **Instagram:** cora.umd

Britney, Kevin Hayes, Hanna-Sophia Georgievska Shine

- The University of Maryland’s chapter of the nonprofit CORA started in 2020. They bring opioid education and harm reduction resources to rural communities, which have been some of the hardest hit by the opioid epidemic and which often have the least resources to address it. The group’s plans include expanding community partnerships and raising awareness by sharing educational modules, infographics, etc. during presentations, activities, and events. CORA holds overdose response trainings to teach lifesaving skills to family and friends of loved ones with a substance use disorder. The goals they are working towards include getting funding for overdose response training, increasing awareness of their group, and gaining access to Naloxone to distribute. CORA has given their opioid response training to 97 people. Members of COA have volunteered a combined 1500 hours and have raised \$3450. The group is in 9 out of the 18 rural counties in Maryland, as well as in Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, and Massachusetts.
- CORA recently conducted a needs assessment with 82 participants across 4 counties to inform their work, including collection at Damascus public library. Based on 2020 data, there is a gap in knowledge of how to recognize and respond to overdoses. Community members are aware of Naloxone but are not sure what to do if they see someone overdosing and are unfamiliar with sternal rubs and recovery breathing. CORA has reached out to churches, smaller clinics, and PTAs to partner. Their brochures contain information on Good Samaritan Laws and a QR code that leads to a video on how to administer Naloxone.

Q & A

- Cristina asked what the group is including about fentanyl in their outreach, since over 90% of overdose deaths are from substances adulterated with fentanyl. The group includes that fentanyl is a rising cause of death in their overdose response training. They also hope to find out and include in their resources where community members can acquire fentanyl test strips.
- Hannah asked about outreach efforts. CORA was part of an event with EMS/Fire in another county which allowed them to reach the general public. They are happy to do whatever gets the message out, adapted to any audience online and/or in person.

- Ben mentioned there could be opportunity work together with his Montgomery County DHHS Harm Reduction to expand reach in Montgomery County. The county could dispense Naloxone to those who complete CORA's training. County Harm Reduction goes out with bookbags of Naloxone and some fentanyl test strips to train people on the street who are in high-overdose areas. **CORA presenters expressed interest in follow-up communication with Ben to partner.**
- Valerie asked about CORA engaging with other colleges. Members said they can help interested students start a chapter if their school does not have one, to help further spread their overdose prevention work nationwide.
- **Laura mentioned an outdoor fair and a contact of hers who is the state PTA Advocacy Chair. Laura will send this information to CORA members to help them spread their reach.**

Subcommittee Reports

Legislative

- January 3rd was the annual AODAAC Legislative Retreat, where members learned how to understand, read, and give testimony. The committee reviews what laws are trying to get passed and then AODAAC gives an opinion on any aspects they want to bring to the attention of policymakers. At today's subcommittee meeting the group discussed 2 new proposed bills they want to support:
 - [SB707](#) is a consumer payment protection bill for mental health and substance use treatment coverage that, in the event that an insured person needs specialty care or care within a reasonable 30 mile or half hour drive distance that not currently available in-network through their insurance, would require insurance to contract with an appropriate provider and only charge the insured person their typical in-network copay rate.
 - [SB460](#) would create a new state-funded nonprofit one stop shop with staff available to all Maryland residents, to help people find insurance coverage or to work with their insurance to find accessible care or create single case agreements where care is inaccessible. The nonprofit would enforce balanced billing and file complaints with the Maryland Insurance Administration if insurance companies do not follow the rules laid out.
- Nick especially supports SB707. He shared that his substance use primary treatment center Fresh Start has never been able to successfully complete a single case agreement and struggles to be covered in-network by insurance. Fresh Start is a newer clinic and insurance companies want more outcome data from them before covering their services, but in the meantime people with substance use disorders are on months-long waitlists for in-network programs when Fresh Start has beds available immediately. Insurance is also likely to charge part of the stay as out of network so they can pay less. SB707 would address this.
- **AODAAC voting members voted in favor of writing testimony in support of both SB707 and SB460.**

Treatment and Recovery

- The group is preparing to host a webinar series on the Basics of Addiction & Pathways to Recovery. All three webinar events are free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required. To register: https://sheppardpratt.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5T8KdempTj2zSKCc845LAA
- The purpose of this upcoming online conversation is to educate the community, prevent overdoses (both non-fatal and fatal), and disrupt the cycle of addiction. The webinar series is sponsored by Montgomery County's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC). The webinar series was planned by the AODAAC's Treatment & Recovery subcommittee to serve the community in education, awareness of resources, and early intervention ideas.

- The topics and speakers for the webinar series include:
 - February 19, 12:00-1:00pm “What is Addiction/Substance Use Disorder?”
 - Sara Rose, Operations Manager for DHHS Local Behavioral Health Authority & LCPC
 - Joey Zabel, President of the Board for Arise and Flourish
 - March 26, 12:00-1:00pm “What is Recovery?: Pathways to Recovery”
 - LaTonia Rich, Executive Director of Tree of Hope
 - Anne Ellis and Elizabeth Leek, Public Relations Committee for 12-Step Fellowship
 - April 2, 12:00-1:30pm “AODAAC and Provider Panel Q & A”
 - AODAAC voting members
 - Youth Ambassador program representatives
 - Local treatment providers

Prevention

- The subcommittee is focusing on 3 priorities. One is incorporating NIDA Words Matter language into the County Code. The Legislative Subcommittee is assisting with formatting the document for submission.
- The second priority is provider education about prescribing opioids. They are collaborating with Ben Stevenson and Dr. Sorrel Schwartz of Georgetown Physicians on a series for physicians and pharmacists working in chronic pain management. The training series will begin in April 2022. They have speakers lined up and are working to get CME credits for providers who attend.
- The third priority is focused on collaborating with MCPS to incorporate the latest evidence-based substance use prevention resources into the curriculum. Kyle Potter is helping them to understand what programs are in place. COVID-19 has caused fragmentation. The group is still gathering information on MCPS programs.
 - Laura brought up that parent and educator pushback are often barriers to substance use disorder (SUD) discussions. She recommended educating these groups and working with the PTA to help reduce pushback on additional SUD education components.

Overview of How AODAAC Advocated for the Renovated Avery Road Treatment (ARTC)

Ed “Bunny” Rich and Dick Kunkle

- AODAAC has discussed potential advocacy in favor of an inpatient substance use treatment facility that serves youth. Laura asked Bunny to present on how he helped spearhead a successful ARTC remodel.
- Avery Road Treatment Center arrived as a temporary modular building on a trailer flatbed around 1992. Bunny was there as a patient and then worked as a tech at ARTC beginning 2009. In 2012 he was part of Montgomery County’s first PEER recovery coach training class and learned about advocacy as a training domain. Before the peer movement, recovery community fellowships had been cautious about maintaining anonymity, so the peer movement brought the idea of stepping out of anonymity to speak out and put a face to recovery. Before then having a SUD history was a barrier to employment, but with the peer movement people with SUDs were suddenly uniquely qualified for a job as a peer.
- Bunny became connected to Dick Kunkle who was part of AODAAC at that time and then Bunny joined the AODAAC. He learned that the county was going to open a \$20-25 million animal shelter. Meanwhile, Avery Road which was supposed to be a temporary building was unchanged after 20 years. ARTC frequently shut down due to power outages from fallen trees and an insufficient backup

generator. The building was in bad shape with mold in the showers, raccoons in the ceiling, etc. Fentanyl was also starting to appear on the street at this point, so it was especially bad timing to need to send people with addictions back onto the street due to facility issues. He decided, people advocated for the animals to get the shelter, so they need to advocate for people in recovery to make their facility needs known.

- Bunny heard about a budget hearing and that same day rallied Avery Road employees and 8-9 patients, organizing a van to transport them. They had ARTC patients sit around a table at the very front in addition to speaking which made a powerful statement and put photos of the new library and new animal shelter plans on tripods. Bunny gave oral testimony and offered that Montgomery County is one of the richest counties in America and therefore the world, which is apparent through our animal shelter but not through our treatment center. He focused the County Executive's slogan about improvement and described how helping people with recovery allows them to return to productive jobs and contribute to taxes rather than requiring ongoing taxpayer-funded services. Bunny also focused on his 52 years as a Montgomery County resident and that he is living proof that Avery Road helps people since he himself recovered through that facility.
- Bunny invited policymakers (and AODAAC) to visit the ARTC facility since it was in an out-of-sight location. The BHCS Director, former Councilwoman Trachtenberg, Meghan Westwood of ARTC and others worked to set up meetings with the County Executive and showed pictures of the run-down facility. Bunny also encouraged BHCS staff like Hardy to push within the department to get the priority at the top of the six-year County Improvement Project (CIP) list in addition to his work "being a thorn in the side of" the County Executive and County Council. Bunny went to several future hearings and continued having people in recovery take the mic. Dick Kunkle worked in the background on bond applications on the financial side. The new facility would cost \$15 million which the county felt was too much, but after a \$7-8 million contribution from the highest contractor bid and \$5 million from the state, the county contributed \$4 million to build it.
- There was a ribbon cutting a few years ago for the new ARTC building, which Governor Hogan attended.
- Bunny cautions that when it comes to advocacy, there will be pushback even after the ball has started rolling. Advocacy results will not happen overnight. It is tough getting the adolescent population to stay in residential care, but right now the restoration center is a high priority for both the county council and the department which is promising. The school system and then fire and police tend to get top priority, so it can take persistence to get human services priorities in the spotlight.

Ex-Officio Reports (see full reports at the end of this document)

Ben Stevenson II of Harm Reduction and Sara Rose of the Local Behavioral Health Authority

- They are working with county partners, the Collaboration Council, and Sheppard Pratt on the Dare to be You program for youth and their parents. The Collaboration Council's 87 social media outreach posts include the dangers of underage drinking and nonmedicinal use of prescription drugs and have reached 46,257 youth. Sarah discussed that the youth ambassador program has had 3 meetings so far and is excited to host a virtual "zen den" event with mindfulness activities and empowerment speakers.
- They are also working with youth ambassadors on upcoming messaging for the BTheOne campaign. There will be a drug takeback day April 30. During the October drug takeback Montgomery County police collected 982 lbs. of medications. The Narcan training program has trained 700 people and distributed 2700 Narcan doses in 2021. The Overdose Fatality Review Team is also partnering with Harm Reduction to bring Narcan to every police patrol vehicle in the county. Narcan is now on all fire

and rescue vehicles and available at every fire station for community members to request. Ben's team is working to train Parks & Recreation and bus drivers in the county on Narcan administration, as well as staff at hotels, motels, convenience stores, and other locations where overdoses happen more frequently. They are working with Alcohol Beverage Services on tips to train alcohol servers. They are also distributing fentanyl test strips and safe syringes largely to the homeless population through syringe services.

Dr. Kyle Potter, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) (full report on page 6)

- There is a new cognitive behavioral intervention for trauma (CBIT) training that mental health staff will receive to use with students in tiers 2 and 3. The long-term goal is for all mental health providers in the school system to be trained. There were also significant overdose-related crises recently involving MCPS students. Dr. Potter thanks Dr. Santiago and others who helped send DHHS staff to the schools to help support students and teachers during this time.

Suzu Malagari, Department of Corrections (DOCR) (full report on page 7)

- 0 inmates are COVID positive currently whereas the number was high last month. A few staff members are COVID positive, but the number has dropped. Family visits to jails have now restarted. The prerelease center is still closed. They are working to reopen it but there have been fewer people sentenced who can attend since trials were postponed due to COVID. Hopefully the court will clear the docket soon now that jails are transporting people to in-person hearings, and more substance use treatment programs and other services that have been on hiatus can resume.
- There are 10 inmates on medication assisted treatment (MAT), and there are a total of nearly 600 inmates in county jails.

Celia Serkin, Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) (full report on page 9-10)

- Elyse gave the legislative retreat presentation at MHAC's most recent meeting. Laura has also been a great contributor on MHAC's legislative subcommittee.
- **Celia will share a proposed bill to address the Maryland healthcare shortage for Corey to send to the group, as AODAAC members may want to support it.**

Amy Samman, Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) (full report on page 11)

- There have been 8 new licensees this year. ABS has helped license holders and their staff prepare for compliance checks
- ABS is currently accepting submissions to the annual middle and high school Keeping it Safe video contest through the under 21 coalition. As of 2/1 there have been 18 entries. It is open to public and private school students and closes March 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

Department/Agency Reporting: MCPS

Ex-Officio Member Name: Kyle Potter

Actions/updates since last report:

Shared information re. curriculum with AODAAC subcommittee members

Crisis support in partnership with several DHHS departments

In early March will begin training mental health providers on the implementation of Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) – a Tier 2/3 intervention specifically targeting effects of trauma exposure

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

Incident report data 7/1/21-12/1/21 – 63 reports of controlled substances compared to 68 over the same period in 2018-2019 school year (last time this timeframe was fully in-person)

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

Curriculum support

Department/Agency Reporting: DOCR

Ex-Officio Member Name: Suzy Malagari, Warden

Actions/updates since last report:

- **Positive inmate and staff numbers have reduced over past weeks, mirrored by the community numbers**
- **Pre-Release and Reentry Services (PRRS) remains closed**
- **Inmate family visiting resumed on 1/30/22**
- **9 inmates are in the MAT program**
- **Count is 590 at MCCF, and 47 at MCDC**
- **Remote court hearings continue**

Behavioral Health & Crisis Services (BHCS), Dept. of Health and Human Services

Ex-Officio Member Name: Dr. Rolando L. Santiago, Chief, BHCS
(report created in collaboration with Hardy Bennett)

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

To promote the behavioral health and well-being of Montgomery County residents. BHCS works to promote mental wellness, prevent substance abuse and suicide, and to ensure access to a comprehensive treatment and recovery system of effective services and support for children, youth and families, adults, and seniors in crisis with behavioral health needs. BHCS is committed to ensuring culturally and linguistically competent care and the use of evidenced based or best practices along a continuum of care. BHCS works with the State's Behavioral Health Administration, DHHS service areas, County agencies, and the community to provide strength-based and integrated services to persons in need.

Actions/updates since last report:

- A two-year SAMHSA grant is funding a 24/7 stabilization room with four recliners at the Crisis Center. It will stabilize persons in a behavioral health crisis for the first 24 to 72 hours. Renovations have started. No staff have been hired yet, but likely this spring and summer. It will serve in part as a pilot for a Restoration Center.
- Takoma Park meeting to discuss creating a CIT Team in that region occurred on February 1, 2022.
- Plan for BHCS staff to return to hybrid work schedules with individual telework agreements by Monday February 28, 2022 now that Omicron COVID positivity rates are trending downward.
- BHCS All-Staff Meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday January 26, 2022 to Wednesday March 2, 2022; Main focus on Strategic Plan.
- Recruitment Updates: Both the Crisis Center and the Adult Forensic Services Manager III Positions have recommended hiring candidates that are pending acceptance.

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

Youth Narcan administration incidents for the past 5 years (2017-2021)

Year	# of Narcan incidents
2017	2
2018	4
2019	6
2020	9
2021	12

Age	# of Narcan incidents
13	1
14	1
15	9
16	5
17	17

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

BHCS staff look forward in the near future to receive feedback from AODAAC members on the FY 22 Strategic Plan, especially those elements of the plan that relate to substance use. This exercise would be useful to BHCS as it prepares for the FY 23 Strategic Plan.

Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report

AODAAC meeting date: February 10, 2022

Department/Agency Reporting: Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

Ex-Officio Member Name: Celia Serkin

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

MHAC was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on matters concerning mental health. MHAC's work includes providing citizen oversight to all state-funded mental health agencies serving Montgomery County and serving as an advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages. The Committee helps to ensure that publicly-funded mental health services are responsive to local needs, accountable to the citizenry and accessible to those in need. MHAC's work includes closely following State and County legislative proposals relating to mental health.

Actions/updates since last report:

At the February MHAC meeting, Elyse R. Grossman, JD, PhD, Public Health Lawyer & Policy Consultant and Commissioner on AODAAC, gave the same presentation on legislative advocacy that she presented at the AODAAC's legislative retreat. Garrett Mannchen, Chair of MHAC's Legislative Subcommittee, discussed the bills to date that MHAC is supporting. Letters were emailed out to MHAC members. Laura Mitchell, AODAAC Chair and liaison to MHAC, is a member of MHAC's Legislative Subcommittee. Below are a list of bills MHAC is supporting to date.

- SB-94 - Public Health - Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee- A letter will be submitted when the bill crosses chambers.
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0094>
- HB56-Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment – A letter will be submitted when the bill crosses chambers. MHAC co-signed with a letter with AODAAC.
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/Hb0056>
- HB118 -Public Schools - Student Attendance - Excused Absences for Mental Health Needs – A letter will be submitted when the bill crosses chambers.
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0118>
- SB241 – Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund – A letter was submitted to the legislature. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0241>

Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report

At the time of the MHAC meeting, MHAC was watching for bill numbers on the Modernization Act and Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) legislation. Both bills now have assigned numbers.

- The Modernization Act now has been assigned a number. SB 637 Health and Health Insurance - Behavioral Health Services – Establishes a comprehensive set of system enhancements that will ensure access to high quality mental health and substance use services.
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0637>
- The VPA legislation has been assigned numbers. SB 656 Children - Residential Treatment Centers – Education Gives local behavioral health authorities a greater role in authorizing educational funding for children in residential treatment centers.
SB 656 has been cross-filed with HB 766.
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0656>

During the BHCS update, Dr. Santiago and Regina Morales discussed the workforce crisis and the difficulties in recruiting social workers to work in the public sector. There was a discussion about possible ways to incentivize social workers to come to and work in Montgomery County. The updated MHAMD bill list (02/04/2022), which was not available at the time the MHAC meeting was held, identifies emergency bill SB 407 - Health Occupations - Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency - Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022), which authorizes the Secretary of Health to declare a health care staffing shortage emergency in the State; requires each health occupations board to establish processes for the issuance of initial licenses, temporary licenses, and temporary practice letters on an expedited basis during a health care staffing shortage emergency; etc. SB 407 is cross-filed with HB 407.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0407>

Michael Maher gave the update on Springfield Hospital at the MHAC meeting. He discussed the very difficult conditions under which the hospital staff are working, including COVID outbreaks and a ransomware attack that adversely affected their network. Mr. Maher and his staff are to be commended for the excellent work they are doing under very challenging circumstances.

Diane Lininger, LCSW-C, Program Manager I, Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice and the Mental Health Advisory Committee, mentioned the Spring Forum, which MHAC and AODAAC are working on together.

There were updates on the subcommittees. At the March MHAC meeting, scheduled for March 3, there will be panel speakers who will present on climate change, mental health, and resilience in a pro-active effort to ensure the community's preparedness, awareness, and response to climate change and severe weather events. MHAC welcomes AODAAC members to come to the March meeting to hear the panelists. Below are the panel members who are confirmed to date.

- Adriana Hochberg, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer in Montgomery County
- Carmen J. Facciolo, Assistant Chief / Community Resources Bureau, Montgomery County (MD) Police Department - part of the discussion

Alcohol Beverage Services, Div of Licensure, Regulation and Education LRE

Ex-Officio Member Name: Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds, Community Outreach Manager

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

As a control jurisdiction, ABS facilitates the alcohol wholesale distribution to over 1000 licensed establishments in the county. Along with the sale and distribution of a controlled substance comes a responsibility to educate and support the establishments served.

The Community Outreach Office works with license holders to ensure compliance. Helping communities flourish through the promotion of alcohol laws, public awareness and responsible hospitality practices are priorities.

Actions/updates since last report:

The ABS-LRE First Year Intervention (FYI) program visited eight new license holders in 2022. The program helps new license holders, and their staff understand their roles and responsibilities and prepares them for future compliance inspections.

ABS-LRE continues to work with license holders who have been approved for the Off-Premises Permission to sell alcoholic beverages by the drink. As of February 1, LRE had approved 163 license holders to use the permission. Most of these permissions have been issued to businesses in Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Rockville and Silver Spring. A compliance specialist has visited 92% of these businesses to provide resource materials and educate them on the permission's requirements.

The Board of License Commissioners recently approved the following amendments to its rules and regulations: 1) **Section 5.11- Beverages from Faucets, Spigots, and Labeling**. This amendment reduces the number of days from seven to five on which a premix can be kept and establishes that the container used to prepare premixes/infusions shall not exceed 20 liters. It also details labeling requirements for premixes and infusions. 2) **5.8 Availability of Food**. This amendment clarifies the definition of "food for sale" during the hours of alcohol sales for certain license holders. According to the amendment, food must consist of a variety of hot and cold meals which can include sandwiches, soups and salads. Items not permitted as food include nuts, popcorn, chips, pretzels, cookies, and crackers.

Finally, the Keeping it Safe Coalition for Under 21 Alcohol Use Prevention, has launched its annual video contest. The Coalition has received 18 entries as of February 1. The contest is open to middle school and high school students from both public and private schools in Montgomery County and encourages student groups to submit a 30-second public service message on the dangers of under 21 alcohol consumption. Entries are due on March 11, 2022.