

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday June 10, 2021, 7:00- 9:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Voting Members Present: Margaret Mattson, Ed “Bunny” Rich, Evelyn Saim-Lobos, Laura Mitchell, Doreen Rubin, Valerie Adelson, Alan Leshner, Denyse Dillon, Elyse Grossman, Dave Sidhu, Kabir Singh, Cynthia Wright, Nick Albaugh

Ex-Officio Members Present: Hardy Bennett, Corey Brandel, Dr. Kyle Potter, Lt. Brent Kearney, Celia Serkin, Ingrid Gonzalez, Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds, Man Cho

Guests Present: Sean Channer of Arise & Flourish; Dr. Ghulam Abbas; Larry Simmons; Wright Doss, Debra Leber of Maryland Coalition of Families

Call to order. Margaret Mattson, Chair, called the Microsoft Teams videoconference meeting to order at 7:04pm. With 13 voting members, a quorum was present.

Ex-Officio Reports

Hardy Bennett, Montgomery County DHHS, Behavioral Health & Crisis Services (BHCS)

- Health & Human Services (DHHS) is in the process of reopening. Management is documenting plans of return to the workplace, some of which will be released via the DHHS public relations officer, Mary Anderson. The general plan is a hybrid model for positions in which telework has been working. The clientele DHHS serves is varied and some clients are looking forward to having access to office-based clinical staff a few times per week. Clinical staff will likely do telework 3 times per week and be in-office 2 times per week, but details are still being worked out.
- There will be an upcoming meeting between DHHS, Corrections (DOCR), and the public safety council about substance abuse treatment, contraband in correctional facilities, and Red Flag laws. The event will be on Thursday, July 29 from 1:30-4:30 PM.
- DHHS is actively recruiting for 3 important management positions. Some time ago Terri Bennett retired, who was the last official administrator for Crisis & Trauma Services. A team member is serving as acting administrator presently, but final selection is in progress to permanently fill the position. First round interviews have concluded and the second round will occur the week of June 21. The two other open manager positions are for: 1) the Access Program and 2) Child & Adolescent and Adult Behavioral Health.
- Last Friday was the ribbon cutting for the reopening of Avery Road Treatment Center (ARTC), which was renovated after advocacy from AODAAC a few years back. Several news outlets described the facility as state-of-the-art, which is a big shift from its former state.
- Drug Court graduation was held on May 19.

Dr. Kyle Potter, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

- MCPS are in the midst of graduation season as well as wrapping up the school year. There have been MCPS leadership changes with a new acting superintendent, as well as leadership changes in offices below it including Dr. Potter’s office.

Lt. Brent Kearney, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)

- There have been 115 nonfatal overdoses year-to-date (YTD), which is up 60% from last YTD. There have been 36 fatal overdoses YTD, up 20% from this time last year. 96% of the overdoses have included fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound, Victims are using counterfeit oxycotin, Percocet, or Xanax pills with fentanyl in it. The Drug Investigation Unit found two big packages of Xanax with fentanyl in it last week. MCPD continues to see connections between crack dealers, gangs, and violent criminal activity in the county,

Ingrid Gonzalez, Parole & Probation

- Parole & Probation is heading in the direction of a hybrid model. They are seeing people in the office more and are conducting more drug testing, to get people into treatment before a fatal overdose occurs. This month Parole & Probation received a Narcan kit delivery to their offices throughout Maryland. They will receive Narcan training in the event that an overdose-related incident occurs in the office/ in the presence of a probation officer.

Celia Serkin, Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

- MHAC's Mobile Crisis subcommittee met with Julie Soloman to discuss crisis intervention needs in Montgomery County from the perspective of police. Different stakeholders on the subcommittee shared their perspectives on what works and what does not: it was a positive discussion. Leslie Frey, Legislative Analyst in the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, also gave a presentation on the legislative process. She discussed how to track bills to prepare for next year's legislative session. Margaret from AODAAC attended the meeting too. Important considerations are that the bills may get revised as they pass through committees and chambers, so it is important to keep up with the changes and update testimony accordingly. MHAC and AODAAC will look to collaborate more on legislative advocacy moving forward, including by inviting MHAC to attend AODAAC's legislative retreat. Hardy shared that he will get in touch with members of Montgomery County's Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) about getting their staff's help with tracking the bills.

Man Cho, Board of License Commissioners

- Senate Bill 205 (SB205) was signed into law effective July 1. This bill allows restaurants to continue alcohol takeout and delivery. The local alcohol boards (Alcoholic Beverage Services and the Board of License Commissioners) are in an ongoing discussion developing guidance.

Gabriela Reynolds, Alcoholic Beverage Services (ABS)

- Last April the ABS partnered with Brown Foreman on a campaign creating labels to go on top of alcohol-to-go containers. ABS intends to distribute the labels to all 406 businesses who requested a permit to sell alcohol-to-go. There is only 1 staff member working on this so they have only gotten to 67 of the 406 so far. They also surveyed those 67. Of the 67, 48% reported using their permits. Reasons for non-use include that indoor dining has reopened, not enough demand, or liability concerns for restaurants in corporate offices. 67% of those surveyed are using plastic cups with lids for alcohol, with some selling cold sealed bottles of

wine or beer. Of those surveyed, responsible server policies have included selling alcohol in kits so it is not ready-to drink, and putting stickers to seal the cup until arriving home. A lot of the surveyed businesses were Hispanic restaurants, so margaritas and sangrias were the most common drinks sold by those surveyed.

Introductions and Elections

- New and existing AODAAC voting members introduced themselves.
- Margaret gave an overview of the executive committee and introduced voting procedures.
- Bunny conducted voting, first for the Chair and then for the Co-Vice Chair positions.
- Laura and Elyse were nominated for the Chair position. Laura was elected via majority vote.
- Margaret and Valerie were nominated for the Co-Vice Chair positions. Both were elected to the two positions via majority vote.

New Business

- Dates to Note:
 - **July 21, 2021:** Suicide Coalition, Community Conversation panel presentation on Brain Health
 - **September 9, 2021:** Next AODAAC meeting
 - **September 12, 19, 26, 2021:** AODAAC Alcohol and Other Drugs 101 Series
- AODAAC website refresh:
 - The menu bar links have been updated, and new content has been posted on the following pages: Who We Are, What We Do, & Resources. The Calendar & Events page also now has the link to the Spring Forum videos and resources.
 - <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/BHCS/AODAAC>
- Modification of AODAAC name
 - AODAAC voted to request a name update, with the 2nd of 3 A's changing from "Abuse" to "Addiction". The request letter was sent to the county attorney a little more than a month ago. Currently there are no updates despite follow-up attempts.
- Subcommittees
 - If new members have questions about the subcommittees, they can contact members/ chairs of the subcommittees. New members can also finalize their subcommittee decision after they have had a chance to attend a subcommittee meeting in September. Currently Information on the Prevention Subcommittee is posted on the AODAAC website, with information on Treatment and Recovery and Legislative to follow this summer. The current subcommittee chairs are:
 - Legislative- Elyse Grossman
 - Treatment & Recovery- Evelyn Saim-Lobos
 - Prevention- Margaret Mattson and Laura Mitchell

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.