

**Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council**  
**AODAAC**  
**December 12, 2024 (In Person / Hybrid)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members:** Elyse Grossman (Chair), Margaret Mattson (Co-Vice Chair), Laura Mitchell, Nick Borowski, Irene Gumico, Malliga Iyer, Denyse Dillion & John Sidhom, Ed” Bunny Rich”, Katrina Busk.

**Non-Voting Members:** Monica Martin (DHHS Chief), Sara Rose (LBHA Director), Celia Serkin, Samar Khleif, Kelly Gruitt, Ben Stevenson II, Roddy Aguirre, Madison Ruppenthal

**Public:** Patty Winters

**Call to Order:** Chair called meeting to order at 7:00pm. Quorum present. Nov. 14, 2024, minutes were approved.

**Presentation & Discussion:** Monica Martin, DHHS Chief & Ben Stevenson II about the use of Opioid Abatement Funds: Presentation: Overview of the OPT (Overdose Prevention Team) and more. Full PPT presentation will be emailed to members.

**Recommendations made by members:**

- Youth rehab development and appropriate supports. System barriers in healthcare issues with electronic medical records affecting care. Limited access to medications for youth, community outreach and engagement. Parent support networks.

**Possible ORF/OAF Uses**

- Youth & Family Outreach and Education \$10,000 (quarterly) – 30,000 (monthly) Per Year
- Senior Outreach and Education
- Low Barrier Micro Grants for Small Community Partners in Prevention & Education
- Stigma Reduction Initiatives
- Youth Treatment with Family and Peer Support
- Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate School Based Treatment for Youth
- Mobile Health Unit with Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate MH & MOUD Services on Board to Increase Access to Treatment for Hard-to-Reach Individuals and Communities
- Expansion of Prevention & Harm Reduction Unit
  - Youth Ambassador Program

- Outreach & Education
    - Community
    - Provider
    - Unhoused Individuals & Families
- Facilitate Family Involvement and Education for Youth in Treatment
- Post Release Continuation of Services and Care for Individuals Receiving MOUD While Incarcerated
- IOAD/MGP Recovery Month
- Prevention Initiatives, Particularly in Schools/With Youth Groups
- Supplies for vending machines
  - Naloxone
  - Test Strips
  - Safer Smoke Kits
- Current Drug Access Issues Social access is the main risk factor for youth Counterfeit pharmaceutical pills flooding the streets. Suggestion for increased police presence, but funding restrictions noted.
- Provider Education Opportunities Provide more education on screenings Screen earlier and screen everyone, not just suspected cases.
- Opioid Education and Prescribing Focus on opioid education for healthcare providers Some credits required to come from opioid education Tracking of prescriptions has helped curb overprescribing Opioids often obtained outside doctor's offices Doctors still need to be aware and screen patient.
- Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage of behavioral health professionals in the area. Consideration of using funds for hiring, training, incentives Focus on increasing peer support specialists Need for providers addressing co-occurring disorders Avoid sending people to separate places for substance use and mental health.
- Training and Certification Suggestion for trainings and certifications for mental health counselors in treating people with substance use concerns and training for substance use counselors on mental health issues. Create true co-occurring disorder providers.
- Pharmaceutical Awareness • Resources for identifying counterfeit pills, FDA resources available Pill identification websites for parents, free drug testing kits available. Awareness campaign needed on what to look for.
- Harm Reduction and Drug Checking • Fentanyl test strips have limitations. Partnership

with NIST for drug checking.

- Peer Support and Parent Engagement, focus on peer support and training, SBIRT training and suicide prevention Emphasis on youth engagement, need for parent education and support groups and to help parents know what to look for.
- Parent Support Package: Suggestion for a parent packet with addiction information. To include resources and information about addiction. The definition of addiction, Information on how to help their child, provide a list of available resources (e.g., AA meetings, Tree of Hope). For immediate support for parents.
- Early Childhood Programs. Concern about continued funding for mental health consultation Suggestion to implement programs for toddlers and foster care parents. To begin prevention efforts as early.
- More scholarships for sober living potentially extend to per 12-month calendar year. Implement a screening process with goals and requirements.
- Address needs of foster children in substance abuse prevention. Explore potential partnerships with Department of Social Services. Investigate current resources and identify gaps in support for this population.

### **Committee Reports:**

- 1. Legislative Communications Committee:** January meeting plans, MHAC hosting legislative person to discuss new bills, Legislative retreat instead of open meeting. Focus on bill review and feedback rather than the testimony writing Issue. Seeking volunteers for meetings with County Council members Hopeful in understanding and resolving the “writing testimony” issue. Newsletter Planning: Upcoming newsletter sections, Peer support services, Data section on racial and cultural differences in substance use, Behavioral Workforce Study summary, FDA resources for checking pharmaceutical doses at home. Newsletter frequency: 2-3 times per year educational focus, not advocacy.
- 2. Training & Outreach:** Proposed Forum on Substance Use: Similar format to Family Forums on fentanyl Multiple educational sessions in English and Spanish. Spring Forum Committee Annual event organized by multiple committees. Volunteers needed for planning: Kelly Gruitt, Ed “Bunny” Rich, and Laura Mitchell volunteered. Resource Table at Student Summit January 4th, 9am to 12pm. Opportunity to raise AODAAC' mission. Volunteers needed to staff table.

## **County Reports:**

**Department of Health & Human Services:** Monica Martin (DHHS Chief). Please see full report emailed.

**Local Behavioral Health Authority:** Sara Rose (LBHA Director) Maryland Department of Health Update: Added cannabis data to opioid overdose dashboard which is an interactive website allows sorting by county Link provided in the BHCS Ex officio report.

**Police Department:** Not present. Report emailed to members and is attached to these minutes.

**Alcohol Beverage Services:** Roddy Aguirre, report emailed to members and is attached to these minutes. Hosting webinar for licensees and urban districts on special events Focus on rights and responsibilities of event organizers Launched holiday pledge for responsible alcohol service and consumption Full report emailed and is attached to these minutes.

**Montgomery County Public Schools:** No report.

**Correction and Rehabilitation:** Not present

**HHS Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction:** Monica Martin reported highlights: 50 students involved in Be the One youth ambassador program Adolescent Substance Use Prevention program served 385 youth 1,641 individuals trained in overdose response (FY25 Q1) Syringe Services program served 191 individuals. (Please see DHHS Ex Officio report emailed and at the end of these minutes.

**Board Of License Commissioners:** Not present.

**Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC):** Celia Serkin, report emailed to members and is attached to these minutes. Invitation to participate in Legislative initiatives discussion January 7th Available in-person at Hungerford conference room or virtual.

**Commission on Health:** Not present.

## **New Business:**

Tree of Hope gift bag stuffing party for Avery Road Treatment Center December 22nd at Tree Hole 34 House Square, 2-3pm. Celebration for Latonya's 24 years in recovery Tree of Hope meeting on Wednesday, 18th at 7:30 Hybrid meeting (in-person and **zoom**).

**Public Comment:**

**Patty Winters:** Recovery Education History First recovery school: Phoenix School Opened in 1979 after a BCC student's overdose on campus Book: "The History of Recovery Education" by Andy Finch Released in October includes section on Montgomery County's Phoenix School.

Oakland, Maryland passed legislation to curb/eliminate Narcan distribution Conflicts with Start Talking Maryland Act requiring Narcan in schools.

Speak up, save a life: event on January 4th Student videos about Good Samaritan Law Over 600 entries, top prize \$4,000.

Recognition of Bunny Boswell's passing • Described as irreplaceable and having led a life of service.

*January 9, 2025, meeting will be our Legislative retreat. To be held online/virtually same time as January meeting but different format*

**Adjourn: 8:51pm.**

**Ex-Officio Reports Below:**

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

AODAAC meeting date: 12/12/2024 Department/Agency Reporting: Health & Human Services Ex-Officio Member Name: Monica A. Martin, LCSW-C, Chief, Behavioral Health & Crisis Services Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

The mission of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is to promote and ensure the health and safety of the residents of Montgomery County and to build individual and family strength and

self-sufficiency. The Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) service area of HHS is committed to addressing the specialized Behavioral Health needs of Montgomery County. Actions/updates since last report: • LBHA: o Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) Request for Applications is out for grants for behavioral health services for students (hub and spokes) ♣ Applications are due to the CHRC on February 4, 2025. ♣ Grant awards will be issued in the spring 2025. ♣ The RFA can be accessed at <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx> ♣ Two Frequently Asked Questions virtual meetings will be held for potential applicants: December 18 and January 15. Meeting information can be found here: <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc/Pages/notices.aspx>. ♣ All proposals will go to MCPS, their deadline for proposals is 1/10/25 • Prevention & Harm Reduction: o Currently 50 students involved in the BTheOne Youth Ambassador Program of Adolescent Substance Use Prevention Program has served 385 youth through onetime presentations, outreach, and life skills o In 1st quarter of FY24: ♣ Trained 1,641 individuals in overdose response. ♣ Syringe Service Program (SSP)/Harm Reduction served 191 unduplicated individual's Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.): • MDH added Cannabis data to their Interactive Dashboards: <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/mdh-dashboards/Pages/Cannabis-dashboards.aspx>

Trend of Intoxication Fatalities by Selected Substances 2023 YTD-2024 YTD (thru Oct) Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC: • As convener and facilitator of the Montgomery County Overdose Prevention Team (OPT), BHCS is seeking AODAAC's recommendations into the County's ongoing allocation of Opioid Abatement Funds. The OPT is adhering to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's national recognized Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation | JHSPH

\*\*\*\*\*

## Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council MHAC Ex-Officio Member Report

AODAAC Meeting Date: December 12, 2024 Department/Agency Reporting: Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) Ex-Officio Member

Name: Celia Serkin, MHAC Liaison to AODAAC 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. Relevant data (i.e., overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.): MHAC does not meet in December. MHAC's next meeting will take place on January 7, 2025, at 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st floor conference room, Rockville, MD. This will be an in-person meeting with a hybrid option. MHAC will offer pizza, salad and water. The guest speaker will be Nicole Graner, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland. She will speak on upcoming behavioral health legislation in Maryland. MHAC has invited AODAAC members to attend this meeting. Pamela Abramson sent an invitation to AODAAC members inviting them to MHAC's January 2025

meeting. MHAC is no longer able to write letters to the State Legislature. However, MHAC has decided that they would like to continue to be updated on state legislation. What happens on the state level directly impacts Montgomery County agencies, organizations, providers, and residents with behavioral health needs and their families. MHAC members can write letters as individuals or for their own organization separate from MHAC in support of or against specific state legislation. MHAC has a Child, Youth, and Young Adult Services (CAYAS) Subcommittee dedicated to working on issues related to children, youth, and young adults with behavioral health issues and their families. The CAYAS Subcommittee meets via Microsoft Teams on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. However, the CAYAS Subcommittee will not meet in December 2024. The next meeting of the CAYAS Subcommittee is scheduled for January 21, 2025, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. During this fiscal year, the CAYAS Subcommittee is focusing on school refusal. AODAAC members who are interested in attending the CAYAS Subcommittee meetings can email Diane Lininger, Program Manager I, Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice, Mental Health Advisory Committee, and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Coordinator, at [diane.Lininger@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:diane.Lininger@montgomerycountymd.gov). Relevant data (i.e., overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.): Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC: MHAC and AODAAC will continue to collaborate on various advocacy efforts and events, such as the Spring Forum.

## **Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report**

**AODAAC Meeting Date:** December 12, 2024

**Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member  
Name:**

Roddy Aguirre, Community Outreach Manager

**Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):**

As a control jurisdiction, ABS facilitates the alcohol wholesale distribution to over 1,000 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.

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

A total of 52 violations have occurred so far in this fiscal year.

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

None currently.

**Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:**

ABS is hosting webinars for licensees who are hosting events. Webinars will help to inform the licensees of their responsibility during events where alcohol is sold, and people are allowed to walk with an open container within the events' boundaries. First webinar will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, ABS has launched a "Holiday Pledge" campaign that will focus on gathering pledges from business owners and community members to make a conscious effort to have consume alcohol in a safe manner and/or serve alcohol in a responsible manner. Pledges will be collected online, and pledgees will receive information about ABS' efforts to deter under-21 alcohol consumption. ABS is also waiting for funds for the Keeping It Safe Student Video Contest that focuses on having high schoolers and middle schoolers creating a 30-second PSA on the dangers of alcohol consumption.

## **Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report**

**AODAAC Meeting Date:**

12/12/2024

**Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member**

**Name:**

Montgomery County Department of Police: Lt. Peter Davidov

**Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):**

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

**Trend- we are seeing more cocaine in overdose victim's toxicology reports (often mixed with opioid and other drugs).**

Opioid Overdoses Year-To-Date

Opioid Overdoses YTD	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
----------------------	------	------	------	--------------------------



Fatal	75	95	36	-62%
Non-Fatal	181	242	89	-63%
Grand Total	256	337	125	-63%

- Please note opioid overdose data only includes fatal and non-fatal overdoses that MCPD Special investigations Division personnel were notified of.
- Includes victims of all ages.
- Includes overdoses that occurred between January 1 and December 5, each year.
- 2023 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

#### Youth Opioid Overdoses Year-To-Date

Youth Opioid Overdoses YTD	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
Fatal	10	10	0	---
Non-Fatal	34	83	26	-69%
Grand Total	44	93	26	-72%

- Please note youth opioid overdose data only includes fatal and non-fatal overdoses that MCPD Special investigations Division personnel were notified of.
- Includes victims under the age of 21 years.
- Includes overdoses that occurred between January 1 and December 5, each year.
- 2023 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

**Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:**