

**Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council
AODAAC**

February 13, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes (Virtual)

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

Non-Voting Members: Monica Martin (BHCS Chief), Celia Serkin, Kelly Gruitt, Roddy Aguirre, Lt. Pete Davidov, Sgt. James Matthews, Stephen Murphy & Man Cho

Public: Madison Ruppenthal, Michelle Simonds, Gia Sclaris, Liiane Cassamajor, Oluymusi Olubigi, Sydney She, Jessa Monreal & Fotso Domfong

Call to Order: Chair called meeting to order at 7:04pm. Quorum **not** present. December 2024 & January 2025 minutes were not approved.

Chair Updates:

In January, one piece of testimony was written. The testimony was rejected by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. AODAAC bylaws state that testimony or advocacy at the State level is allowed If approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Testimony had been approved until last year, but now it’s being rejected.

- **Presenter:** Roddy Aguirre works for the Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services in the division of Licensing, regulation, and education (LRE). Roddy provided a through PPT preview of what LRE provides for new applications and licensees.
- **Presenter:** Man Cho, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners. Man provided a through PPT on the role of the License Commissioners in the County.

Committee Reports: Subcommittees did not meet as there were only 3 voting members present. Chair reminded voting members that being on AODAAC includes attending meetings before the main meeting at 7pm.

Joint Meeting AODAAC & MHAC: A proposal for one joint meeting with MHAC a year with shared agenda. This fulfills a requirement in the LBHA plan. A suggestion is to hold the joint meeting as part of the Spring Forum however this was rejected by members of both commissions. April 10 2025, 6pm-9pm would be the meeting date. The meeting will cover a topic(s) related to mental health and substance use. Chair asked members present what is their preference for meeting. Margaret (Co Vice Chair) requested to be part of the agenda for this meeting and additionally wants something tangible to come out of the meeting. ***The consensus is to have a in person with hybrid option focusing on a meaningful outcome. This meeting will be at: 401 Hungerford Dr Rockville, Maryland 20850. More to come on this effort.***

County Reports:

- **Department of Health & Human Services:** Monica Martin reported The County's Executive recommended FY26 budget will be released March 17, 2025. Youth Substance use residential treatment program, Mountain Manor is now open for all genders as of January 27, 2025. All 15 beds are full. Governor Moore released his FY26 budget. A link to the budget highlights is in the Ex Officio report. Please full report in its entirety emailed to all members.
- **Police Department:** Lt. Pete Davidov reported overdose numbers are significantly down from 2023 and 2024. Please see full report in its entirety emailed to members. Lt Davidov announced he will be transferring to another unit. He introduced Sgt. James Matthews is the new Overdose Investigations unit supervisor. Lt O'Brian will be starting on Feb. 23, 2025 and will taking Lt Davidov's place. Chair wished Lt. Davidov well!
- **Alcohol Beverage Services:** Roddy had to leave early however please see his full report in its entirety emailed to members.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools:** No report.
- **Correction and Rehabilitation:** No report
- **Board Of License Commissioners:** Man Cho provided a verbal report. Inspection count for FY25 1,830 inspections to date. Violations count to date: 65 same as in 2024.
- **Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC):** Celia Serkin gave an overview of two meetings January 7th and February 4th. Nicole Granger from Community Behavioral Health Assoc of Maryland discussed the legislative session. Please see full report in its entirety emailed to members.
- **Commission on Health:** Not present.

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Announcement: Tree of Hope parent group meeting Tuesday evenings 6pm- 7pm.

Adjournment: 8:43pm.

All Ex Officio Reports provided are at the end of all minutes

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

AODAAC meeting date: February 13, 2025

Department/Agencies Reporting: County Executive, Health & Human Services

Ex-Officio Member Names: Monica A. Martin, LCSW-C, Chief, Behavioral Health & Crisis Services

Sara Rose, LCPC, Director, Local Behavioral Health Authority, 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:

- Chief's Office:
 - Reminder that 2019 [Promoting Community Trust Executive Order](#) is still in effect across County agencies
 - County Executive's Recommended FY26 Budget to be released March 17
- LBHA:
 - Youth substance use residential treatment program is now open for youth of all genders as of 1/27/25. For more information: [Maryland Treatment Center Adolescent Treatment Programs](#)
 - Governor Moore released FY26 budget: [Budget Highlights Fiscal Year 2026](#)
 - New MDH website dedicated to AOT: [Pages - Assisted Outpatient Treatment](#)
 - Parent CRAFT has been shown to be highly effective, with a 71% success rate in getting adolescents and young adults into substance use treatment – now available with Spanish translation: [Maryland - Cadence](#)
- Prevention & Harm Reduction Services (PHRS):
 - Working with Public Health Services to expand Syring Services Program (SSP) to additional site at Dennis Ave. in Silver Spring
 - Now have 53 BtheOne Youth Ambassadors representing 13 schools (12 MCPS, 1 private; 12 high schools, 1 middle school). Three Youth Ambassadors participated in the CADCA National Forum Feb. 3-6. They were able to network, learn from peers through training sessions, and present their perceptions of youth MH/SUD

and the need for continued support by legislators with substance use prevention funding with staff from Senator Van Hollen's office.

- Overdose Prevention Team supported the following use of Opioid Abatement Funds to address community priorities:
 - Use projected FY24-FY25 surplus (1-time costs)
 - Dedicated Youth Recovery Support: Use surplus in personnel and youth treatment allocations to "expand . . crisis stabilization centers," as allowed per state statute, specifically for youth recliners. Funds will allow startup of operations at expanded facility post-renovations at 1301 Piccard Drive, to include developmentally appropriate mental health and substance use stabilization services for youth.
 - Addressing Systemic Barriers in Healthcare (limited access to medications like Suboxone for youth): Use surplus in Narcan supplies allocation to cover costly medications for OUD/SUD for patients without insurance coverage.
 - New FY26 allocation:
 - Increasing Upstream Prevention Education: \$300,000 ongoing allocation to expand evidence-based SUD early prevention programs to upper elementary and middle schoolers.
 - Increase Community Outreach and Engagement
 - Engaging youth through community programs and creative methods: \$125,000 investment in establishing Office on Youth Resilience to coordinate and evaluate strategic cross-sector primary youth prevention and resilience supports and programs, including significant youth outreach and engagement.
 - Strengthening parent support networks: \$150,000 to strengthen Parent/Family Peer Support Networks

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

- [Pages - MDH Interactive Dashboards](#)

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

- Greater coordination/alignment with the Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) and the Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT)
 - The OPT is required by the state to promote multidisciplinary collaboration to expand substance use-related supports. *OPT is also responsible for developing the local strategy to reduce overdoses* and hosting meetings to discuss updates. While OPT is mandated by the state and AODAAC is per county charter; and the bodies' required compositions are different; *there is a clear connection in functions with AODAAC's mandate to provide guidance to County Executive and County Council to identify substance use prevention and treatment needs in Montgomery*

County and reviews the County's efforts to address those needs; as identification of prevention and treatment needs informs local strategy and recommendations for use of funds, and both entities have a role in receiving updates on and reviewing efforts.

- The OFRT reviews circumstances of individual fatal overdose cases, to identify safeguards to implement in systems of care to prevent future fatalities. *Recommendations from OFRT findings should inform OPT in its local strategy development, and AODAAC's guidance in identification and review of needs.*

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

AODAAC Meeting Date:

2/13/2025

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	2023	2024	2025	Percent Change 2024-2025
Fatal	15	4	3	-25%
Non-Fatal	34	22	6	-73%
Grand Total	49	26	9	-65%

- 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 February 10, each year.
- 2024 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

Youth Opioid Overdoses Year-To-Date

Youth Opioid Overdoses YTD	2023	2024	2025	Percent Change 2024-2025
Fatal	1	0	0	----
Non-Fatal	16	8	0	----
Grand Total	17	8	0	----

- 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 February 10, each year.
- 2024 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

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

AODAAC Meeting Date: February 13, 2025

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.

This report describes two MHAC meetings, one that took place on January 7, 2025, and the other on February 4, 2025.

MHAC MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2025

MHAC met on January 7, 2025. AODAAC was invited to attend this meeting. The scheduled speaker was Nicole Graner from the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH), who reviewed what to expect from the 2025 state legislative session. Attached is Nicole's presentation. Her agenda was as follows:

- About CBH
- The Need - Behavioral Health Workforce Report
- The Concern - Maryland's Budget
- The 2025 Legislative Session - Priorities and Policy
- Make a Difference - How you can get involved!

CBH is the trade association representing community-based providers addressing mental health and substance-related needs among Maryland residents. The continuum of services delivered by CBH members includes:

- Intensive, in-home services (1915(i)/Targeted Case Management)
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Mobile Crisis Teams
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs
- Adult residential services for Substance Use Disorders and Severe Mental Illness
- Outpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment
- School-based mental health services
- Supported employment services
- Living room crisis stabilization centers
- Residential Crisis Services (RCS)
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

Nicole explained what CBH does under three categories, LEARN, CONNECT, AND AMPLIFY.

LEARN

- Read every bill introduced in Annapolis and regulation proposed in Maryland Register to evaluate impact on behavioral health services.
- Monitor national and federal developments through the National Council on Mental Wellbeing.

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CONNECT

- Peer-to-peer support and education through more than 13 listservs and learning communities.

- Broker access to leadership, operational and clinical training resources

AMPLIFY

- Coordinate and facilitate implementation of innovations with members.
- Support structured outreach to federal and state legislators on member priorities.

Nicole described the Behavioral Health Workforce Needs Assessment. Senate Bill 283, which was signed into law on May 3, 2023, established the Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund to provide reimbursement for costs associated with educating, training, certifying, recruiting, placing, and retaining behavioral health professionals and paraprofessional...and required the Maryland Health Care Commission, in coordination with certain other agencies, to conduct a comprehensive behavioral health workforce needs assessment by October 1, 2024. The overall findings of the assessment are listed below.

- Workforce Shortage - Maryland currently employs 34,613 professionals, which is 50% below the number needed to meet CURRENT need.
- High Attrition Rates - 45% of current workers are expected to retire or live within 5 years.
- Future Need - An additional 32,786 professionals are needed by 2028 to meet projected demand.
- Uneven Workforce Distribution - Baltimore City has the highest concentration of professionals and Prince George's and Calvert Counties are among those with the fewest.
- Workforce shortages impact both urban and rural areas.

Workforce Demographics - The workforce is predominantly female, with the exception among psychiatrists (only 38% female). Hispanic workers make up only 4.7% of the behavioral health workforce despite being 11.7% of the state population. Black professionals are overrepresented in lower paying roles but underrepresented in higher-paying positions such as psychiatry. Prince George's and Montgomery Counties have a significant gap in Hispanic and Black professionals in higher-paying behavioral health roles. Rural counties including Queen Anne's and St. Mary's have fewer behavioral health professionals per capita compared to urban centers.

The key challenges are:

- Maryland behavioral health professionals face lower median salaries compared to neighboring states like Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania.
- Licensing processes take 6-24 months, delaying professionals from starting work.
- High attrition rates lead to staffing shortages in counties such as Allegany and Cecil.
- Insufficient incentives for professionals to stay long-term impact areas like Charles and Harford Counties.
- Rural counties struggle to attract qualified professionals due to fewer local resources and support.

Recommendations to address challenges include:

- Competitive Compensation
- Paid Education and Training
- Licensing Reforms
- Job Quality Investments
- Community Talent Attraction and Retention
- Expanded Fellowship Programs

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

Nicole discussed the FY26 - FY30 budget outlook. We are heading for some very lean times. Avoiding cuts would be a win. Maryland faces more than \$1 billion in combined structural and cash deficits in FY25. That gap more than doubles to \$2.7 billion in FY26 and 27. There are a few things driving the deficit and it's not a recession or the Blueprint - it is health care, behavioral health and childcare scholarships. By FY28, the state will exhaust the money set aside to cover the costs of the Blueprint and will require money from the general fund. The structural deficit grows to nearly \$4.7 billion in 2028, then \$5.2

billion a year later, and again to \$5.9 billion in fiscal 2030. Nicole stated that we will know more about the specifics when the FY26 budget is released on January 15. The bulk of CBH's advocacy will focus on protecting funding for behavioral health. Our mandated rate increases from the HOPE Act are gone, but legislators have more power in the budget now.

Nicole explained the budget process.

- Governor's Proposal - Initial budget presentation
- Legislative Review - Lawmakers analyze and discuss
- Adjustments – Lawmakers increase, reduce, add
- Final Approval - Governor can approve or veto

She also explained the changes. In the November 2022 election, voters passed a constitutional amendment, which allows the General Assembly to increase budget allocations. This represents a significant shift in the state's budget process and restores some of the legislative powers that were diminished when Maryland adopted a more executive-centered budget model. The amendment went into effect on January 1, 2024, marking the first time in over a hundred years that Maryland lawmakers will have the ability to **add to the budget rather** than only reduce or restrict funding. They must still stay within the parameters set by the Governor. These changes not only empower legislators but also open new avenues for advocacy, as community needs can now be more directly addressed in the budget process. **Your voice matters more than ever.**

Nicole went over the expected "hot topics" in the 2025 Legislative Session.

- Workforce
 - Workforce Investment Fund
 - Compacts and reciprocal licensure agreements
- Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS)
 - PBHS funding
 - AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) implementation
- Crisis Response
 - 988 funding
- Behavioral Health Parity
 - Telehealth legislation
 - Step therapy, fail first protocols and prior authorization
 - Expand harm reduction strategies
- School Mental Health
 - Consortium funding

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

Nicole discussed pre-filed bills that were dropping.

SB0036 - 911 Trust Fund - 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline

- Authorizes the use of the 911 Trust Fund for some support of the 988 Hotline.
- Restricts funds from being used for any "costs that solely support the 988 hotline"

SB111 - Step Therapy, Fail First Protocols and Prior Authorization - Prescription to treat SMI

- Prohibits MD Medicaid and certain other insurance plans from applying prior authorization requirement, step therapy protocol or fail-first protocols for prescription drugs used to treat bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depression, PTSD.

SB174 - Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact

- Would add MD to the states in the Social Work Compact.
- This had wide support in the House last year, but stalled in the Senate.

SB0083 - Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program

- This was introduced last session and would set up “safe use sites” for the consumption of pre-obtained substances.

During the MHAC meeting that took place on January 7, 2025, the following updates were given.

- **LBHA** – Sara Rose provided a brief update. LBHA is now reviewing 2024 data for the annual plan. Some highlights she noted are increased client utilization, decreased suicide (11% from 2022 to 2023), and increased emergency visits.
- **AODAC** - Laura Mitchell noted there is an upcoming legislative Committee retreat and current consideration of the Spring Forum.
- **Commission on Mental Health** – Donna Cawley noted that Commission priorities are to increase behavioral health providers by reallocating funding and seeking grants.
- **Suicide Prevention Coalition** – Celia Serkin described the Coalition’s two presentations: DBT services and the impact of climate change on suicide.
- **CAYAS** – Michelle Grigsby-Hackett described two presentations given during the meeting. Shawn Lattanzio, Program Manager II, Child and Adolescent Coordinator, Montgomery County Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, discussed the Hub Initiatives. The LBHA is serving as the Hub. Edil Gebreselassi, Data Analyst for the Montgomery County Hub, Montgomery County Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, presented data on chronic absenteeism.
- **Spring Forum** - Diane Lininger indicated that planning for the May Spring Forum is beginning. Also, she will be distributing a list of subcommittees to inform new members of opportunities.

MHAC MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Libby Nealis, MHAC Chair, and Michelle Grigsby-Hackett, MHAC Vice Chair, gave a legislative update. Kelly Gruitt, MCPS representative to MHAC, and Libby Nealis discussed Medicaid expansion for MCPS. Michelle Grigsby-Hackett shared information about the Crisis System billing. Updates were given on the LBHA, Legislative Subcommittee, AODAAC, Suicide Prevention Coalition, CAYAS Subcommittee, and Spring Forum Planning Workgroup.

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MHAC AND AODAAC JOINT MEETING

In April 2025, MHAC and AODAAC will hold an in-person joint meeting.

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.

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Ex-Officio Member Report

AODAAC Meeting Date: February 13, 2025

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.):

None currently

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

None currently.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

ABS is now receiving submissions 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. In addition, ABS held the first of quarterly meetings with the Safety Alliance for 2025 where special events were the focus.