

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

March 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

Virtual on TEAMS 6pm-9pm

Voting Members: Elyse Grossman (Chair), Margaret Mattson (Co-Vice Chair), Laura Mitchell, Irene Gumucio, Malliga Iyer, John Sidhom, Ed” Bunny Rich”, Michelle Scarlett & John Sidhom

Ex Officio Non-Voting Members: Monica Martin (DHHS Chief), Sara Rose (LBHA Director), Celia Serkin, Kelly Gruitt, Roddy Aguirre & Lt. John O’Brian

Public: Madison Ruppenthal, Lisa Ransom, Arnecia Moody, Jonathan Hernandez, Jayne Orthwein & Katheline Villatoro

Call to Order: Chair called meeting to order at 7:01pm. *Quorum was present 9.*
Motion & seconded to approve the December 2024 and January 2025 minutes. Minutes were approved.

Update:

- April 20, 2025, Joint meeting with MHAC is in person w/ hybrid option. Dinner will be offered. Two speakers scheduled to address mental health and substance use to include co-occurring disorders.
- Spring Forum 2025: (Laura) Saturday, May 17, 2025, 830-12noon. Location: Montgomery College East County Educational Center. Resource fair starts at 830 and sessions start at 9. Sessions will rotate between English and Spanish. Continental breakfast, COPE trailer may be present, pending property owner approval.
- June Board meeting: Guest speaker and elections and will wrap up the year. July & August no meetings. AODAAC will resume in September 2025.
- New Applicant Interviews: Pam, Chair and Irene interviewed 2 applicants for AODAAC positions. Names were forwarded to the County, then to the County Council. County executive nominates and the county Council confirms.
- Nominating Committee: Need three members to serve on the committee. These members can’t run for office. Duties: Contact a potential member, review attendance of potential candidates. One person to serve as Chair, and two people to serve as Co Vice Chair for AODAAC next year. Members can also run from the floor at the June meeting. The nominee committee will organize a slate. Pam sent out the description for the position of Chair and Co Vice Chair. You must be a Voting Member to serve on the nominating committee and have no interest in running for office. *Elyse asked for interest in serving on the nominating committee. Irene volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.* Pam and Elyse will reach out to people to form the nominating committee.

Committee Reports:

Legislative & Communications: The newsletter was discussed, which will include trwp pieces from Laura about Kate Stewart and Spring Forum. Celia will provide information about the spring forum. Lt O'Brian will contribute information about his unit. The newsletter will be sent to the Executive committee and then members for approval. No new developments in communication and testimony efforts. A proposal to invite council members to meetings for 10-minute updates to increase their involvement with AODAAC. Celia provided an update on several bills and their legislative status.

Training & Outreach: Discussed Spring Forum link provided for Cope trailer:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/howdof/community-opioid-prevention-education.html>

County Reports:

- **Department of Health & Human Services:** Monica announced that the County Executive's recommended budget for FY26 will be released March 14, 2025, at a 10am press conference. OD deaths in Montgomery County decreased by 40%, compared to 35% decrease in Maryland and a 24% decrease nationally. Please see the full report attached to these minutes. Report was also emailed to all members.
- **Local Behavioral Health Authority:** Sara Rose, Plan for FY26 highlights. Data plan shows decreases in overdoses and suicides in Montgomery County. Working close with the State on planning for next fiscal year. There was advocacy for continued funding at the State budget hearing. Plan will be ready for review early next week. *Network of Care Website:* has been updated please see link to website: <https://mentalhealth.networkofcare.org/Montgomery-md>.
- **Montgomery County Police Department** Lt. John O'Brian: Provided written report. Welcome Lt. O'Brian who is eager to serve on AODAAC. Please see full report attached to these minutes. Report also was emailed to members.
- **Alcohol Beverage Services:** Roddy provided written report. ABS is wrapping up its "Keeping it Safe" student video contest at the end of the month. Contest involves middle and high school students creating a 30 second PSA about the dangers of underage drinking. Please see full report attached to these minutes. Report also emailed to members.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools:** Kelly provided verbal report. MCPS has a partnership with Shepard Pratt for the Recovery and Academic Program (RAP). Psychological services is managing the program.
- **Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC):** Celia provided a written report. Highlighted events. Please see full report attached to these minutes. Report also emailed to members.
- **Board of License Commissioners:** Not present

New Business & Announcements:

- MCC PTA and Montgomery goes Purple are hosting a forum March 27, 2025, at Gaithersburg High School. The forum will focus on sleep and its impacts for secondary school students. Will send flyer to Pam.
- Ed Bunny Rich: Tree of Hop 10-year Anniversary May 14, 2025, at Glenview Mansion. First fundraiser for their anniversary. Golf Tournament Fundraiser coming soon.
- John Sidom: Family-owned pharmacy celebrating two-year anniversary this month. Waiving copayments for Medicaid patients due to the economy and layoffs.
- Chair reminded members of *the In Person w/ Hybrid option Meeting April 10th Joint meeting with MHAC*. Location: 401 Hungerford drive Rockville, MD. 20850. Please respond to the in-person link (emailed to members) sent out by Pam for the purpose of planning dinner. A meeting will be held on co-occurring disorders.

Adjourn: 8:48pm

Next AODAAC meeting April 10, 2025

Ex-Officio reports attached.

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

AODAAC Meeting Date:

3/13/2025

Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member Name:

Montgomery County Department of Police: Lt. John O'Brien

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

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

Opioid Overdoses Year-To-Date

Opioid Overdoses YTD	2023	2024	2025	Percent Change 2024-2025
Fatal	27	8	10	+25%
Non-Fatal	67	29	13	-55%
Grand Total	94	37	23	-38%

- 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 March 9, 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	3	0	1	----
Non-Fatal	26	11	1	-91%
Grand Total	29	11	2	-81%

- 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 March 9, each year.

- 2024 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

Current or potential collaborations with AOD

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

1

AODAAC Meeting Date: March 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.

Actions/updates since last report:

MHAC met on March 4, 2025. The planned guest speaker, Genevieve Diamond, LCSW-C, Team Leader, OnTrack Maryland, Shepherd Pratt, did not attend the meeting. She was going to speak about OnTrack programming and outcomes, as well as the role of the Peer Support Specialist and why that role is so important.

Updates were given on:

- LBHA
- Mental Health Convening Session
- Legislative Subcommittee
- AODAAC Meeting held in February 2025
- Commission on Health
- CAYAS (Child, Adolescent, and Young Adults Services) Subcommittee
- Spring Forum

Information was shared on upcoming meetings.

- MHAC and AODAAC will have a joint meeting on April 10, 2025, at 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st floor conference room, Rockville, MD. MHAC members will meet at 6:30 pm. The joint meeting will be 7:00 - 9:00 pm. This joint meeting will be held in lieu of the regular April meeting, which would have taken place on April 1.
- A regular MHAC meeting will not take place in May 2025 because all MHAC members are required to attend the in-person Spring Forum, which will be held on May 17, 2025, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, at Montgomery College East County Education Center, 2221 Broadbirch Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904. There is bus service and a stop right at the campus. There will be a resource fair open during the entire event. The same workshops will be offered in English and Spanish. There will be Narcan training and distribution during the event.

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

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

MHAC and AODAAC are collaborating on planning the joint meeting scheduled for April 10, 2025. In addition, they are working together to plan the Spring Forum.

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

AODAAC meeting date: March 13, 2025

Department/Agencies Reporting: Health & Human Services

Ex-Officio Member Names: Monica Martin, Chief, Behavioral Health & Crisis Services (BHCS) / Sara Rose, Director, Local Behavioral Health Authority, BHCS / Ben Stevenson II, Acting Manager, Prevention and Harm Reduction Services, BHCS

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:

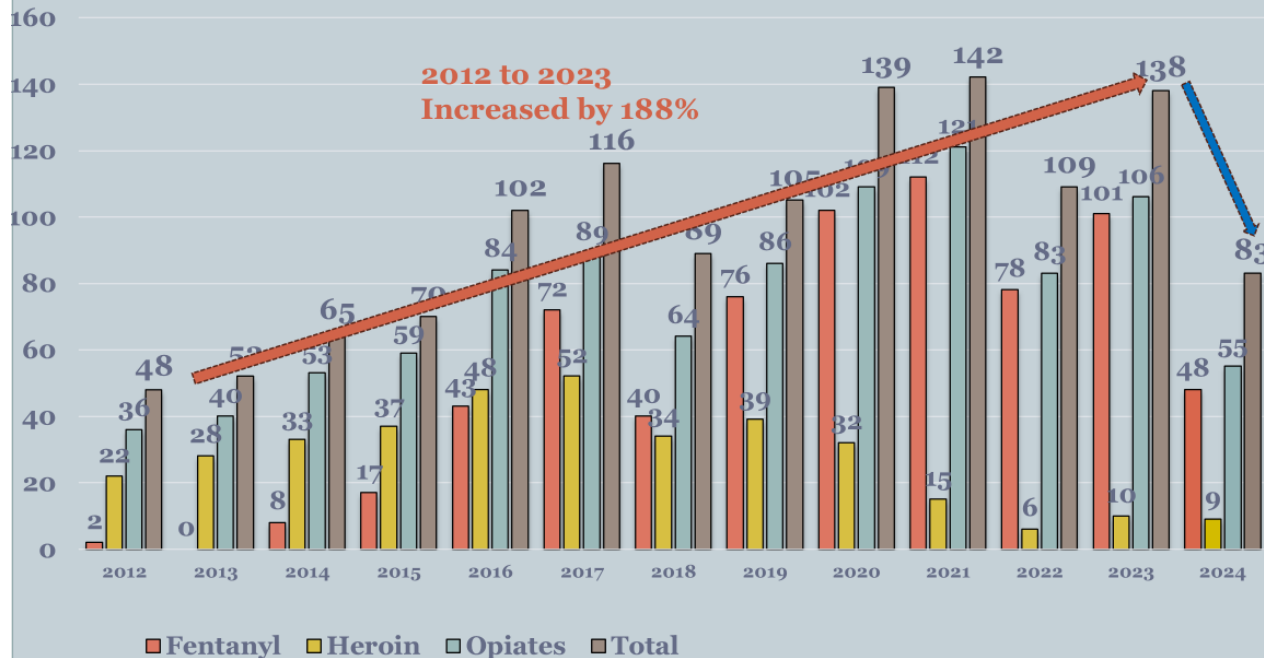
- Chief's Office:
 - County Executive's Recommended FY26 Budget to be released March 14 at 10:30 a.m.
- LBHA:
 - FY26 Planning in progress – Annual Implementation Plan and Data Plan
 - Network of Care – updated AI assisted search bar for resources
 - [Network of Care for Behavioral Health](#)
- Prevention & Harm Reduction Services (PHRS)
 - No major updates this month.

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

- [Pages - MDH Interactive Dashboards](#)
- **Montgomery County experienced a 40% decrease in fatal overdoses in 2024 when compared to 2023**, surpassing the state decrease of 35%. Montgomery County's decrease includes:
 - A decrease of 48% from 2023 for fatal overdoses involving opioids
 - A decrease of 52% for fatal overdoses involving Fentanyl
 - A decline of 18% for fatal overdoses involving alcohol
- **This represents the lowest number of fatal overdoses (83) in Montgomery County since 2015.**
 - The decline observed was mostly driven by age groups younger than 40 yrs, especially among those 22 yrs and younger.

Montgomery County Trend of Intoxication Deaths by Selected Substances 2012-2024 (up to Dec. 31 2024)

2



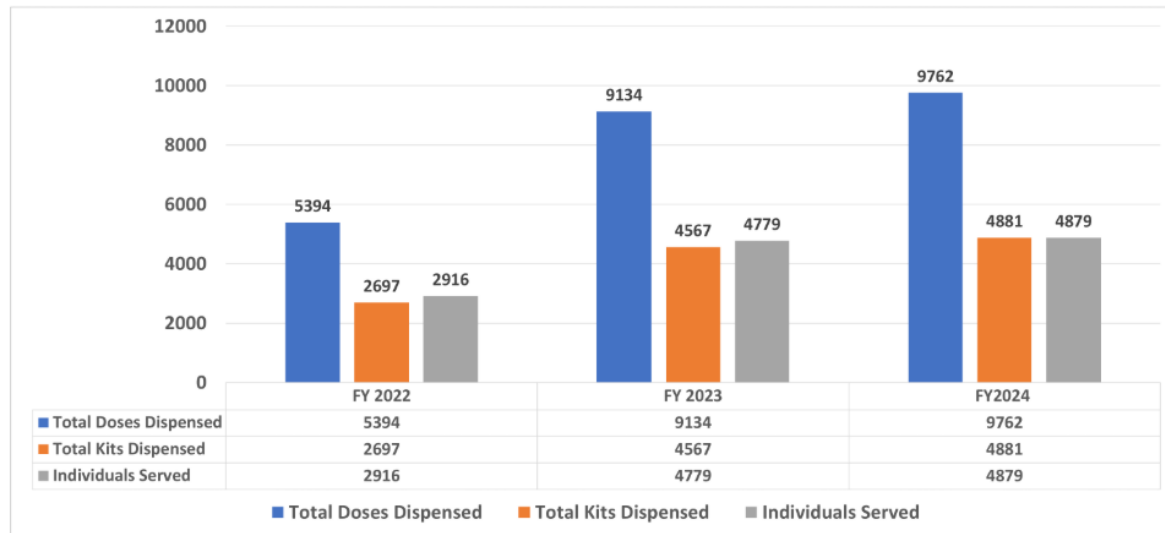
Source: MDH Reports on Drug and Alcohol Intoxication Deaths up to end of Dec. 2024, An overdose death may involve more than one substances. The counts related to specific substances do not sum to the total number of overdose deaths.

- Similarly, in 2024 Montgomery County saw a significant decline of 30% in ER visits due to Opioid Overdoses as compared to 2023. This represents the first notable decline since the beginning of the Covid Pandemic.

Contributing Efforts:

- In FY24, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' Prevention and Harm Reduction team provided Narcan administration trainings to 4,879 individuals and distributed a total of 4,881 Narcan kits containing 9,762 doses, representing an **81% increase in Narcan kit distribution** and **67% increase in individuals trained in Narcan administration** as compared to FY22.

Montgomery County Trend of Narcan Kits Distribution



Source: : Montgomery County Prevention Program FY22-23 Annual Reports and FY24 YTD Report as of April 2nd 2024.

- In FY24, Montgomery County's STEER (Stop, Triage, Engage, Educate, and Rehabilitate) Program served a total of 592 county clients considered at high risk of overdose. Among these, 82% completed STEER screenings. Among those screened, 52% received a referral to treatment, and 57% of those referred were engaged in treatment after being referred.
- Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services' **Crisis Stabilization Room** admitted 409 individuals in 2024, with 287 (**70%**) of them **presenting with substance use**. The Crisis Stabilization Room provided timely intervention and care for those struggling with substance use issues and facilitated their connection to recovery pathways and supportive resources.
- In the Maryland Medicaid Public Behavioral Health system, a total of 5,342 County SRD (Substance Related Disorder) clients (Medicaid and some uninsured) were served in FY24, with a corresponding expenditure of \$29,433,715. Compared to FY23, the client count experienced a 5% increase, while expenditures increased by 20%. The significant growth in expenditure was driven by the increased costs of SRD Partial Hospitalization, SRD Outpatient services, Intensive Outpatient services, SRD Labs, and SRD Opioid Maintenance Treatment services, indicating that **more county clients received community-based Substance Related Disorder treatment services in lieu of ER or inpatient services** to support their recovery in the community.
- **Incarcerated individuals are 40 to 129 times more likely to die from a drug overdose compared to the general public**, with most deaths occurring within two weeks of release from correctional facilities. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' Jail Addiction Services **provided Narcan training to 58 inmates who were identified with opioid use in 2024 and ensured each inmate had a Narcan Kit upon release**. The Department also **served 137 clients in 2024 at the Jail Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program, representing nearly double the number of clients served in 2023**. This treatment of clients in jail is often a first-time introduction to clients of the gold standard of care for opioid use disorder. This program includes

assistance transitioning clients to the community for continued treatment in the county's outpatient MAT clinic or at a clinic near their residences.

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: March 13, 2025

Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member Name:

Jody Childers, Alcohol Enforcement Specialist

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 at this time.

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

None at this time.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

ABS is wrapping up the Keeping it Safe Coalition for Under 21 Alcohol Use Prevention annual video contest for middle and high school students from public and private schools. We encourage anyone who knows a middle school or high schooler to invite them to submit a video. All entries are due by 4pm on March 31st.

We are looking at other ways to work with the SSL program to increase student participation and awareness. In addition, we will be conducting DUI focus groups that focus on the beliefs and behaviors towards alcohol among the Latino community. There is limited data on how beliefs, perceptions, and behaviors towards alcohol are seen by minorities.

