



Marc Elrich
County Executive

James C. Bridgers, Jr. Ph.D
Director

**Alcohol and or other Drug Addiction Advisory Council
Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024**

Voting Members: Elyse Grossman (Chair), Isabelle Raquin (Co-Chair), Nick Borowski (Co-Chair), Malliga Iyer, Laura Mitchell, Ed "Bunny" Rich, Zayne, Denyse Dillon & Margaret Mattson

Newly Appointed Members: Michelle Scarlett, Irene Gumucio, Thomas Chu, John Sidhom, Dr. Alan Trachtenberg, Katrina Bust

Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Rolando Santiago Celia Serkin, Jody Childers, Ben Stevenson II, Samar Khleif, Kyle Potter, Celia Sirkin, Sara Rose, Ben Stevenson & Rodrigo Aguirre

Guest / Public: Tim Harwood & Henok Solomon & Peter Luongo

I. Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Reminded everyone to take all of the training so we can all move forward.

II. Presentation: Shawn Gritz, an attorney whose been practicing for 30 + years, presented on the new DUI Court of Montgomery County.
PPT will be shared with members.

III. Committee Reports:

→ **Legislative & Communications: Chair**

⊕ We wondered if Judge Bernard could help introduce our mission to other judges to have a shatterproof-like presentation in front of members of the bar. Do we wait until members of the Bar have to get mandatory credits? Could we present at the Judges' conference next year?

→ Cristine Ramadan could present.

→ **Training & Outreach: Nick**

⊕ Youth mental health first aid training for everyone. Came up with ideas on how we can impact the community.

→ Outreach to children at local rec centers to educate on prevention and PAWs in order to get around certain laws that restrict billing insurance, and parental consent.

→ Could we write a letter to the AG regarding social workers treating children with MH and SUD advocating for our proposal?

IV. County Reports:

- Department of Health & Human Services: Dr. Rolonda Santiago
- The State of MD thinks that Montgomery County's BHA plan is number one in the entire State. Please see Dr. Santiago's report emailed to all members.
- June will be elections for Chair and Co-vice chair for next year.
- In April we will need a nominating committee for members to join the board
- Sara Rose updated everyone. The LBHA in Montgomery is piloting the hub and spoke model. Got funds from a 100 million Federal grant. There's an initiative to have EMS be able to provide buprenorphine injections on-site for persons who refuse to go to the hospital after an overdose.
- Ben Stevenson- Prevention: Working with HHS and Corrections to provide services for youth offenders. Harm reduction. Trained 3,400 people in the county.
Drug take-back day is April 27th.
- ADS- Still taking submissions for the video contest. May 8th is the award ceremony.
- Kyle Potter (MCPS) 1,000 people showed up for Northwood High School's Event.
- Spring Forum is May 9th. Are we going to have a speaker?

Minutes prepared by Nick Borowski (AODAAC Co-Chair)

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS ATTACHED BELOW:

Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report AODAAC Meeting Date: March 14, 2024 Department/Agency Reporting: DHHS.BHCS

**Ex-Officio Member Name: Dr. Rolando L. Santiago, Chief, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services,
Department of
Health and Human Services**

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC): The mission of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) is 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 or 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 States' Behavioral Health Administration, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) service areas, County agencies, and the community to provide strength-based and integrated services to persons in need.

Actions/updates since last report:

BHCS activities of interest to AODAAC members over the last month addressed (1)

1. Emergency response with youth using fentanyl in Aspen Hill, Glenmont, Wheaton Corridor. The emergency response to engage youth using fentanyl and their families in the Aspen Hill-Glenmont-Wheaton corridor began on Tuesday, February 14, and not on February 6 as reported earlier due to additional approvals needed before funds were released. Identity staff have begun to engage with youth and families, and with providers and businesses. A meeting of stakeholders will be announced soon.

2. Opioid Abatement Funds. On Tuesday, February 27, the County Council voted to approve a special appropriation for use of \$3.1M in Opioid Abatement Funds. This appropriation will fund activities in the areas of treatment, harm reduction, prevention, community engagement and management. Ben Stevenson II has been promoted to a manager position at Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS)

and will direct the implementation of the projects associated with the Opioid Abatement Funds.

3. Community engagement. The following describe community engagement activities.

a. **Community grants.** The award of three \$25,000 grants to community organizations will be announced soon. These grants fund activities of non-profit organizations that address the opioid and fentanyl crisis such as health promotion and prevention of substance use disorder through community events, media, and recreational activities.

b. **Meeting with advocates for interventions targeting African American young males under 25.** On Tuesday, March 12, several DHHS staff members including the Chief of BHCS met with two Montgomery County advocates for interventions that target suicides and overdoses among African American males under 25 years old. Meeting participants brainstormed ideas of targeted interventions and will hold a second meeting in the month of April.

c. **Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, February 24, Springbrook High School.** Ben Stevenson II and his staff distributed Narcan and trained participants on the use of Narcan to prevent overdoses. Dr. Santiago presented information in English and Spanish about mental health and substance use resources including access to insurance benefits during a recurring session at this event, sponsored by the Montgomery County Council of Parent and Teacher Associations (PTA), the Springbrook High School PTA and Montgomery Goes Purple.

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

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Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

There continues to be significant collaboration between BHCS staff and AODAAC. Examples include:

1. Staffing of AODAAC. This is done chiefly through LBHA staff, and Pamela Abramson as LBHA liaison and staff support for AODAAC

2. Support of AODAAC legislative initiatives. DHHS staff continues to support and process legislative actions at the Maryland Legislature, and the Montgomery County Council, through the Local Behavioral Health Authority process.

3. **Collaboration on community events.** Staff at BHCS continues to also support and collaborate with members of AODAAC to organize community awareness events, especially on the current opioid and fentanyl crisis.

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

AODAAC Meeting Date: March 7, 2024

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.

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None at this time.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

ABS is continuing to work on 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. All entries are due by 4pm on March 31st.

We are completing a self-paced ALERT class that will be offered online. The goal is to launch it to the public later this year. Alcohol Law Education and Regulatory Training (ALERT) is a free class that is designed to educate Montgomery County servers, sellers, management, and owners on alcohol beverage regulatory compliance. The class helps to educate the attendees on how to develop responsible alcohol policies and review issues identified by enforcement agencies. Currently, ALERT is offered as a live online class the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm. We offer the class in English and a Spanish. This self-paced ALERT will open opportunities for others to take the class on their own time. It will not replace our live version.

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

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AODAAC Meeting Date: March 14, 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. MHAC's work includes closely following State and County legislative proposals relating to mental health.

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

MHAC held a hybrid meeting at Compass Health Center on March 5, 2024. Dr. Marissa Leslie gave those who attended in person a tour of the center. She also gave an overview of Compass Health Center's history and services. Compass Health Center was founded and is led by experienced child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrists Dr. David Schreiber, MD, and Dr. Claudia Welke, MD, who recognized the need for immediate access to specialized, patient-centered psychiatric care in the Chicago area. While working together on a hospital inpatient unit, Dr. Schreiber and Dr. Welke observed a shortage of programs to address the needs of children experiencing behavioral health crises. Many children faced long wait lists, resulting in unnecessary emergency room visits and subsequent hospital admissions. Recognizing the potential for improved outcomes with timely, appropriate care, they set out to establish a center that could provide an alternative. In 2011, Compass Health Center opened its doors to serve children, adolescents, young adults, and adults. Since then, Compass has annually served thousands of patients, expanding its reach to new regions and offering new specialty care programs. Compass Health Center's multidisciplinary treatment team consists of over 55 psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners, along with more than 550 master-level clinicians. Areas of focus include OCD, trauma, school anxiety, depression, anxiety, substance use, bipolar disorder, PTSD, chronic pain, and child dysregulation. Treatment is provided in age-appropriate settings within child, adolescent, young adult, and adult programs. Compass Health Center has locations in Illinois (Chicago, Northbrook, and Oakbrook) and Maryland (Silver Spring), with virtual access to care available across both states.

Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief of BHCS, presented the new legislative process for reviewing bills and getting approval to submit testimonies. MHAC members asked specific questions about the process.

Celia Serkin gave the following updates:

- Update on the AODAAC meeting held on February 8, 2024 - Dr. Eric Weintraub, Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the Division of Addiction, Research and Treatment and Associate Director of the Kahlert Institute of Addiction Medicine at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, gave a presentation at this meeting.

- Update on the Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting held on February 27, 2024 - There were three presentations given during the meeting.
 - The first presenter was Dr. Diana Clarke, Director of Research at American Psychiatric Association and a leading expert on cultural factors in suicide risk assessment and safety planning. Dr. Clarke overviewed the high-risk cultural groups for suicide in the US, inclusive of indigenous populations and persons of color. Her thesis is that

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culture impacts every dimension of risk assessment and safety planning. While there is a culturally specific suicide risk assessment instrument, CARS or Cultural Assessment of Risk for Suicide, it is deemed too long at 40 items. Dr. Clarke recommended consideration of cultural factors in current risk assessments, including recognition of discrimination and social connection as factors in suicidality. An important exploration that Dr. Clarke highlighted was inquiry around whether seeking services bears cultural stigma, as this would lessen the likelihood of follow-up or adherence to care.

- The next presentation was on Sheppard Pratt New Baltimore Washington Campus and Urgent Care Services. Ryan Burton, Director of Provider Relations; Dr. Laura Eskander, Chief of Emergency Services; and Kristen Pruitt, Director of Day Hospital Services, Sheppard Pratt, overviewed the services available at Sheppard Pratt's new Baltimore Washington Campus. The most important for Montgomery County residents is the Urgent Care Service, which allows patients to bypass local emergency rooms and avoid lengthy wait times. If a patient is voluntary, they can be scheduled for an emergency assessment from 10 AM to 10 PM (last appointment 9 PM), 7 days per week, to assess their mental health needs and refer them to inpatient, outpatient, or partial hospital programs. If a patient desires a SP placement at the new Baltimore Washington Campus, or the historic Towson campus, the Urgent Care Service will try to accommodate them, or it would refer them to another facility if Sheppard Pratt did not have beds. The Urgent Care Services are unable to offer medication refills. Sheppard Pratt also offers a partial hospital program with DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy), an evidence-based practice shown to reduce self-harm behaviors. To schedule an appointment at the Urgent Care Service, call 410-938-5000.

- The third presentation focused on the JED Foundation Partnership with MCPS. Hope McGuire, Program Manager, Student Engagement, Behavioral Health, and Academic, MCPS, overviewed the exciting partnership between the JED Foundation and MCPS. JED is a nonprofit organization that offers online resources, education, and gap analysis to school systems across the US. MCPS is one of 18 School Systems participating in this innovative partnership. MCPS teachers can participate in webinars that increase awareness of suicide risk and other trends impacting student mental health. Hope McGuire reported that MCPS will be able to assign each of its 211 schools with a mental health provider when Maryland Consortium Funding becomes available.

- Update on the Mental Health Advisory Committee's CAYAS (Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Services) Subcommittee meeting held on February 20, 2024 - During the meeting, Shawn Lattanzio, Program Manager II, Child & Adolescent Coordinator Behavioral Health Planning and Management, Montgomery County Local Behavioral Health Authority, gave a presentation on child and adolescent behavioral health resources available in Montgomery County, Maryland. Larry Epp, Ed.D., Director, Outcomes and Innovation, Families and Communities Service Line, Sheppard Pratt, provided information on Care and Connections for Families.

During the MHAC meeting held on March 5, 2024, Diane Lininger, Program Manager I, Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice, Mental Health Advisory Committee, and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Coordinator, gave an update on plans for the Spring Forum.

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 events, such as the Spring Forum, and on various advocacy efforts

Chat Resources:

Speakers email address:
shawn@ghslawyers.com

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FkYGm66DBsG8&data=05%7C02%7CSara.Rose%40montgomerycountymd.gov%7C155d756aa974490ce34a08dc42afb504%7C6e01b1f9b1e54073ac97778069a0ad64%7C0%7C0%7C638458569634814094%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZs b3d8eyJWljo iMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C&s data=ky3Ayp8i9JcowxxdGgpUuL0ARpG7uOgK27Smvc6QBI%3D&reserved=0>

Laura~ Dr Marc Fishman is conformed for spring Forum

SAMHSA has a prize challenge for youth to come up with promotional approaches to address the issue fake pills. The deadline is quick (March 26th). But wanted to share in case you know youth that might want to submit an idea.

Challenge.Gov



[FentAlert: Empowering Youth for Safer Choices - SAMHSA Fentanyl Awareness Youth Challenge | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/youth-challenge)