

# ***Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council***

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

**7:00- 9:00 pm**

**401 Hungerford Drive Rockville, MD 20850**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Large Conference Room**

**Voting Members Present: Elyse Grossman, Anaum Khan, Caroline Lee, Debra Lundin, Caroline Lee, Ed “Bunny” Rich, Larry Simmons, Eric Sterling, Roni White, Celia Young**

**Ex\_Officio Members Present: Hardy Bennett, Raymond Crowel, Mike Subin**

**Guests/Others: Lisa Lowe, LaTonia Rich, Patty Winters**

### **Overview**

The goal of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC) is to express the views of the community in the formulation and administration of alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment services in Montgomery County. Members of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council serve as community representatives, who provide guidance to the County Executive and the County Council in identifying prevention and treatment needs and reviewing the county’s efforts in addressing those needs. The Advisory Council will make recommendations in support of, or to improve, current prevention and treatment efforts. The AODAAC also serves as the local drug and alcohol abuse council and submits a bi-annual strategic plan to the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.

**A call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Roni White, Chair. 11 members were present which were sufficient to have a quorum. Roni White is the outgoing chair and was replaced by Eric Sterling. Introductions were made around the room. In the previous meeting, there were not enough members present to have a quorum in order to approve the minutes. During this time the following minutes were approved:

- February minutes were changed to add the word “recent” in the very last sentence of the meeting minutes.
- March minutes were approved with no changes
- No April minutes were approved (the council will vote on April minutes at the next meeting).
- June minutes were approved provided that corrections will be made to spell Elise’s name correctly.

## **Discussion- Input from Full AODAAC membership identification of topics to address for the present year**

- The council discussed Maryland's 2017 Heroin and Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement Initiative, which is a multi-pronged administrative and legislative effort to continue addressing Maryland's ongoing opioid and heroin epidemic. As a result of these efforts 191K was allocated toward the Behavioral Health and Crisis Services of the Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services. Of this 191K funds were divided to support four initiatives:

- Speak Up and Save a Life
- Stop, Triage, Educate, Engage, and Reform (STEER)
- Public awareness campaign for suicide and drug prevention
- Public awareness campaign for alcohol abuse

Council did not discuss in detail about whether to continue these programs however the chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Raymond Crowel, did express support and believes in the future success of these programs.

- Member expressed interest in having a public forum on the issue of drug decriminalization and to have Montgomery County Council introduce a bill to decriminalize drugs within the county. It was discussed that a preferred way is to have a forum focused on the opioid crisis, for example, with drug decriminalization as one of many talking points. The idea of having Montgomery County Council introducing a bill to decriminalize drugs is not feasible as this issue is not within its jurisdiction. Maryland Treatment Center has expressed an interest to do a public forum.

- Reform on Tap. Member suggested the council should focus on alcohol abuse rather than solely on the opioid crisis. She suggested the council should focus efforts supported by evidence-based interventions.

- Teen advocate wanted to make sure the council focus on youth with drug problems in an effort to ensure they get the necessary help they need to live a full and productive life.

- Members expressed an interest in writing to the Maryland board of education to get information about what the state is doing to educate students on drugs as way to shape and influence AODAAC's recommendations to the county.

- Members expressed caution about re-opening Phoenix Rising. The council wrote a letter to address its concerns for re-opening the drug recovery school for teens and wanted Brave and Bold founder to do a presentation at the next meeting. A vote as to whether the council should support re-opening the school will follow the presentation.

- Member agreed to devise a plan of how the AODAAC can address the opioid crisis for the current fiscal to be discussed and agreed upon.

### **Review of Prior Committee and Establishment of Committees for Current Fiscal Year**

- Each chair of the prevention, recovery, legislative, and provider committee made a presentation. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to participate.

Legislative Committee: Elyse Grossman, Debra Lundin, Eric Sterling, Veronica Wright

Prevention Committee: Caroline Lee, Larry Simmons, Veronica Wright

Providers Committee: Eric Sterling?

Recovery Committee: Anam Khan, Ed "Bunny" Rich, LaTonia Rich, Celia Young

### **County Report**

- Raymond Crowel, Chief of the Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, gave Health and Human Services report.

-As of 1 July 2017, Avery Road will be funded by fee for service instead of block grants.

- Strategic Alignment Process is designed to bring together behavioral health and service providers to ensure a collective effort to treat drug and alcohol abuse. The goal is to focus the county's effort in these areas when funding becomes available.

- The police department, liquor control, public schools, correction and rehabilitation, and the board of license commissioners gave no reports

### **New Business/Public Comment**

- Lisa Lowe Director of Heroin Action Coalition and chair of F.A.C.E. expressed her disappointment in AODAAC's decision to not allow members of the public to set the agenda for the current fiscal year. She believes in not allowing non-voting members to be more vocal in the planning process is a disservice to the community. She wrote a letter to be included in the meeting minutes.

-Brave and Bold founder, Patty Winters expressed her concern to support re-opening Phoenix Rising, America's first high school for teens in recovery from substance addiction. The school operated in Montgomery County from 1979-2013.

### **ADJOURN**

