

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – February 6, 2024

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Bill Ellis	Joshua Lemere	Meredith Peace	Michael Mayer	Rachel Ames
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Tami Mark	Jordan Satinsky	Rolando Santiago	Ziva Azhdam
Jennifer Grinnell				Evelyn Burton
Kelly Gruitt				Muhammad Hasan
Stephanie Joseph				Shawn Lattanzio
Susan Kerin				Hope McGuire
Marissa Leslie				Laura Mitchell
Garrett Mannchen				Arnechia Moody
Libby Nealis				Christina Niedlinger
Alan Orenstein				James Rhoden
Celia Serkin				Sara Rose
				Justin Saffar
				Vivian Yao

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. Libby Nealis chaired the meeting which was held virtually.
- II. **Children’s Mental Health Services** – Shawn Lattanzio, the Child and Adolescent Coordinator for the LBHA, gave an overview of child & adolescent behavioral health resources available in Montgomery County. She also reviewed some of the services that have been lost which include residential treatment centers and respite care.
- III. **Sequential Intercept Model** – James Rhoden is the Assistant Director of Maryland’s Center of Excellence (COE) for Criminal Justice which was established in 2021. He gave an overview of the COE’s programs which includes addressing gun violence. He also explained the sequential intercept model (SIM) which is a tool to help communities understand and improve the interactions between criminal justice systems and individuals with mental health and substance use disorder needs.
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **January Minutes** – The January minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.
- VI. **New Business.**
 - A. **BHCS update** – Sara Rose shared that the LBHA plan will provide an 8% increase to individuals who bill Medicaid. BHCS has been awarded 17 new residential beds for intensive care.
 - B. **MCPS Jed Foundation Partnership** – Kelly Gruitt and Hope McGuire noted that all MCPS behavioral health positions have been filled. The school system was selected to participate in a [program by the Jed Foundation](#) to strengthen the mental health and emotional well-being of its students.
 - C. **AODAAC/Going Purple Update** – Laura Mitchell shared that in January AODAAC focused on Maryland legislative targets. She added that the County recently informed AODAAC that providing testimony was outside their role.
 - D. **Suicide Prevention Coalition** – Celia Serkin noted that the last meeting focused on Everymind which runs the county’s 988 line. They also looked at partnerships focused on youth.
 - E. **CAYAS Subcommittee Update** – Michelle Grisby Hackett shared that the subcommittee focused on a review of new policies related to student truancy. Celia added that there was a presentation from [Youth MOVE National](#) about engaging youth in decisionmaking activities. They also discussed MRSS. On February 24th, Springbrook will be hosting a Youth Ambassador Training. Other events include a March 9 County Council effort on combatting opioids and a March 9th Girls Summit.
 - F. **Spring Forum Committee** – The forum will be held on May 9. There will be a planning meeting on February 13th. MHAC members are invited to participate.
 - G. **Legislative Committee** – Diane Lininger emailed MHAC members with a list of State legislation that we provided testimony for. This included adding a veteran representative to MHAC; providing an interstate compact for social workers; and allowing easier licensing for Marriage and Family Therapists who come from out of State. Other testimony is in the pipeline. All legislation was approved.
- VII. **Announcements**
 - A. **March Meeting** – The March Meeting will be held in person at Compass.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at **9:15** p.m.