

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes – April 11, 2023</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Bill Ellis	Jennifer Grinnell	Chad Matthews	Michael Mayer	Hope McGuire
Kelly Gruitt	Stephanie Joseph	Regina Morales		Laura Mitchell
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Joshua Lemere	Meredith Peace		Melissa Regan
Susan Kerin	Garrett Mannchen	Rolando Santiago		Sami Sapkota
Marissa Leslie				Stephanie Wallace
Tami Mark				
Libby Nealis				
Alan Orenstein				
Celia Serkin				

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. Susan Kerin chaired the meeting. Two new members were introduced:
- Dr. Marissa Leslie, a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist who is also the System Medical Director of Psychiatry at Adventist HealthCare.

- Sgt. Chad Matthews with the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) of the Montgomery County Police Department.

There was a quorum of committee members.

- II. **Bridge to Wellness Initiative** – Libby Nealis facilitated this discussion. Presenters were Hope McGuire and Stephanie Wallace with the Montgomery County School System.
 - A. Six high schools have full wellness programs. Bridge to Wellness would provide a mental health therapist or specialist; case manager; and a youth specialist for the other high schools without full wellness programs. Partners include Sheppard Pratt, EveryMind, the YMCS, and Identity. The program also addresses social determinants of health, supports parents needs and provides coverage during summer break.
 - B. The program was started this year so they had to staff up and begin work quickly.
 - C. One issue related to providing services without parental consent. However, MCPS has been able to navigate this requirement and is committed to providing this option as allowed.
 - D. **REQUEST** – The program only has funding until 2024. The MHAC approved sending a letter to the County Council, County Executive and Board of Education for sustained funding. We will ask other boards to consider signing. The MHAC will also arrange meetings with these elected officials. Libby and Celia Serkin volunteered to work with Diane on the meeting arrangements.
- III. **Old Business**
 - A. **March minutes** – The minutes for March 2023 were approved.
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. **AODAAC Update** – Laura Mitchell reported that AODAAC has changed their name to the Alcohol & Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council to avoid stigmatizing language. AODAAC is doing a gap analysis and have already had one meeting about it. Laura invited all MHAC members to attend their meeting this Thursday to discuss the analysis further. There was another Fentanyl Community program at Paint Branch High School and some students at Clarksburg have started a club based on this issue. **REQUEST** – Laura asked that MHAC join AODAAC in sending a letter to the Governor requesting a Youth facility. This would support a letter already sent by the County Council and County Executive. The letter should also mention the need to move towards more integration among mental health and substance use disorders including addressing licensing and reimbursement issues. This request was approved by unanimous consent.
 - B. **Update from BHCS** – Dr. Santiago invited MHAC members to attend the virtual April 20th session about the Restoration Center. He noted that a

delegation of stakeholders visited a Restoration Center in Newark, Delaware to learn about their approach. He also shared that he spoke to the Council's HHS Committee about the Fentanyl crisis and noted that they were supportive, particularly Councilmember Natali Fani Gonzalez.

REQUEST – MHAC offered to send a letter to the County Council and Mayor of Rockville expressing support for the Restoration Center. This was approved through unanimous consent.

C. Spring Forum – Diane said that the details are finalized and they have coverage for the technical/logistical support for this virtual meeting on May 18th. There will be no May meeting of the MHAC so that members can attend the Forum instead. The Prevention subcommittee is committed to promoting the Spring Forum widely and in particular to reach marginalized and underserved communities.

D. Upcoming Meetings –The Speaker for the June meeting will be Dr. Kisha Davis, Montgomery County's new health officer. July we will have an in-person meeting. EveryMind has offered to host the meeting and provide a tour. Celia noted that she also got an offer for MHAC to tour the new Avery Road facility. Diane will look into that either for a future meeting or as a side tour during an off-meeting time.

V. Subcommittees –Members reported back on the following subcommittees.

A. Legislative Subcommittee – Libby noted that while the Medicaid school reimbursement did not pass, most other priorities that MHAC had did. Celia had sent over a summary from MHAMD on the status of various legislations.

B. MRSS – Celia has arranged for a virtual presentation with Elizabeth Manley, a nationally recognized for her expertise in children's behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use systems design to give a presentation on Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS). MRSS is a child, youth and family specific crisis intervention model. The session will take place on April 18th.

C. Medicaid Reimbursement in Schools – Libby noted that the legislation passed the House and looked promising in the Senate. However, community providers expressed concern that it would create competition with their staff leaving to go and work at the schools. As a result, the legislation died in committee. Libby noted that it would be good to try again next year and in the interim continue conversations to address these concerns and reassure the community providers.

D. Workforce – There will be a subcommittee next week.

V. Commission Announcements – Members shared the following:

A. BHA Rates - Michelle Grigsby-Hackett noted that there will be BHA rates for Crisis services. While this is a positive development, it is important that other options (e.g., a braided reimbursement funding stream) remain. She will monitor and let us know if any issues arise that might benefit from advocacy.

- B. RAP Open House** – Laura noted that the Recovery and Academic program (RAP) for youth will be having an open house on April 21st.
 - C. Del. Joe Vogel and Workforce** – Regina Morales shared the Delegate Joe Vogel would be in a newstory airing tonight at 10 pm about his bill to address the school mental health workforce shortage.
- VI. Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.