

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – February 1, 2018

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jeannette Bjorklund	Tali Elitzur	Raymond Crowel	Scott Green	Alice Zic
Kevin Bryant	Garrett Mannchen	Meredith Peace		Rita Deng
Scott Davis		Deborah Phillips		Carrie Cho
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett				Dan Martin
Jennifer Jones				
Daphne Klein				
Kiki Li				
Tami Mark				
David Myles				
Celia Serkin				
Karishma Sheth				
Susan Smith				
Amy Sutter				

I. Welcome MHAC Members and Guests

II. **November 2017 minutes**—approved

III. **Chair Reports**

- a. Subcommittee of Spring Forum – Diane Lininger report
 - Daphne Klein and Denise Camp will be speaking about “From Stigma to Strength”
 - May 3rd at Bohrer Park in the gym at 6pm
 - Huge resource fair – exhibitors let Diane know
 - Replaces MHAC meeting
 - Committee is meeting again on February 14th – things are moving along
- b. March Speaker – Tom Manion coming to speak on the Justice Center - will provide an overview; Raymond Crowel will give overview of Strategic Alignment
- c. April Speaker – Rita Deng will be speaker
- d. Budget Forums for the County
 - Monday was County Executive Leggett’s budget forum for FY19; can go to montgomerycountymd.gov/open budget to see the slides and details of the forum
 - Josh Waters went through details – there is a budget shortfall, due to uncertainty with tax revenue
 - Advocated for Mental Health Court
 - Diane – no update on meeting for all chairs of Committees, Commissions, etc. with County Council HHS Committee; if anyone wants to go to this meeting, please let Diane know – 3 to 4 people would be good; per Kiki timing is important; Diane to schedule the meeting after March 15th – perhaps first week in April so we have enough time to tweak priorities as budget is being reviewed and passed over; Diane will let everyone know.

IV. **BHCS Update – Raymond Crowel report**

- FY18 savings plan - \$4M was handed to HHS for cuts, County Executive trimmed that back by \$500k, partially by trimming back expansion of Mental Health Court – only taking half of that cut so they can begin expansion in April
- “Watch” word for FY18 is delays in implementation of programs and hiring freeze (lapse – expand or shrink to meet the lapse) – complete lockdown in terms of vacant positions; service gaps in Mental Health Court, Crisis Center, etc.; been on lockdown since early December and expect that to continue for the rest of this year
- Need to reduce capacity – drug court, jail treatment center reduced by half; didn’t significantly impact the provider community; CSA has several vacancies, which is slowing down their administrative processes including reporting and monitoring
- FY19 is still a work in process – 2 – 3% reduction planned across the board in the County; plan is coming together in Exec’s meetings and will be released March 15th; Council hearings are scheduled April 15th – May 15th
- Council will vote on the budget late May; not hearing much about State budget – diversion programming – backlog for people in jails just waiting for transport up to state hospitals; capacity for beds at local and state levels is not meeting demand; state is looking for training opportunities for peers on substance use and mental health side

- MHAMD's annual legislative briefing is on February 7th in Annapolis from 4:30 – 7:30pm
- HHS sub-committee meeting dates have not been finalized, but will get them out to the committee when available – April 10th, 11th and 12th

Per Scott Davis – Maryland House Bill 111 – judges can now set dates for mandatory taking out of jail and taken to state hospital; DOCR and MCPD have endorsed it

V. Speaker: Dan Martin, Senior Director of Public Policy Mental Health Association of Maryland

MHAMD Legislative Briefing at Loews Hotel on February 7th at 4:30pm

About 3 weeks in for session – there's been a record number of bill requests – about 4,000 so far; Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition/MHAMD – hundreds of members statewide; came together really well over last couple of years on Keep the Door Open; this year the budget came out and said there was a 2% decrease rather than an increase for behavioral health providers – restoration of that cut is their #1 priority – legislature seems to be behind the restoration, so looking positive – it's approximately \$8M – they are pretty positive it will happen;

Priority #2: Expanding crisis treatment and telehealth across the state – highlighting model systems across the state; so the Coalition settled on a plan and drafted legislation which dropped in the Senate and the House which will create a grant program where local jurisdictions can apply to expand their crisis response systems – proposals will require support for substance use and mental health for all populations, will give priority for blended funding systems – State shouldn't be the only partner; Coalition is working with the administration to get something going this year; however message is not an either or – we need crisis support and rate increases to help support for maintenance purposes – go together very closely

Priority #3: Improving quality and outcomes of behavioral health services in primary care settings – because people don't see good results, no follow-up; Coalition is pushing for a bill which will require a pilot program for a collaborative delivery system – proven to improve services and save money; no matter where they are, people are getting good behavioral health services; bill will go in and then conversations will begin

Rate increases – have heard from legislators that the HOPE Act wouldn't have gone through if it wasn't for the state-wide support and rally – it gives the momentum necessary to get the bill passed; help promote the rally on February 22nd; per Jennifer we sent a letter of support last year for the HOPE Act – perhaps we can write another letter to support restoring the 2% cut; we will need a formal motion when the letter is drafted; Raymond – this was designed to close the gap for mental health providers, so this cut is very disappointing; per Dan – providers are having to close their doors, which is very discouraging;

Dan – MHAMD has been working to implement the parity law; data is bleak for Maryland – in 2013 nationally people were more likely to go out of network for behavioral healthcare – stats got worse in Maryland every year – third worst in the nation; network adequacy

Seeing kids stuck in ED's – hearing lots of anecdotal stories – a bill will be introduced around data transparency to corroborate the anecdotal stories; TCM hasn't been as effective or utilized as anticipated – good news is that rates for TCM were increased

House Bill 111 – MHAMD did not take a position on this bill because they see both sides of the issue – don't want people waiting in jails for a bed – numbers are down; House Bill 385 is an alternative bill – has some problems

Raymond – challenge in County is residential rehab beds – and people waiting on beds – state controls the expansion of beds – and has said no to MoCo for last 7 – 10 years; per Dan – crisis bill they are putting in includes crisis residential beds and residential rehab beds to help address this

Jeanette – could class action lawsuits get filed against insurance companies that are not following parity law; but parity violations are very hard to prove

Raymond mentioned House Bill 499 – involuntary commitment/EP for someone who has overdosed; MHAMD's position is they are not the experts on SUD's

CIT Coordinators – 2nd annual conference in Ocean City is planned

MHAMD Advocacy page – they send out weekly updates during session

Springfield Hospital Update – Debbie's report

Central admissions are up and running – still a work in progress – there's only 1 person on the waiting list from MoCo; they continue to bring people in as they discharge people; they are at census now

Announcements

Celia – Federation will be going to Family Day in Annapolis; they'll be renting vans and anyone interested can join them; On Our Own will also be going

Alice (guest) – AAHI published another photo novel on mental health issue – which was passed around; all novels are available online and in different languages

Daphne – hosting an Emotional CPR course on February 8th and 9th – scholarships are available if anyone wants to attend

MCPS and MCCPTA joint effort for first health and wellness forum on April 22nd at Gaithersburg HS – will have resource fair – Diane will forward information to committee

Jennifer – Larry has decided to step off the Committee – we will work on getting something nice for him as a thank you

Sub Committees met from 8:30 – 9:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm