

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – February 7, 2019

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jeannette Bjorklund	Scott Davis	Scott Greene	Raymond Crowel	Sami Sapkota
Jennifer Jones	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Meredith Peace		
Garrett Mannchen	Daphne Klein	Debbie Phillips		
Tami Mark	David Myles			
Libby Nealis	Jasmine Pearson			
Celia Serkin	Elizabeth Rathbone			
Karishma Sheth				
Susan Smith				
Amy Sutter				

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I. Introductions—Welcome MHAC Members and Guests (Jeannette Bjorklund, Chair)

- Garrett announced that there is a quorum.

VI. Springfield update (Debbie Phillips, LCSW-C)

- Debbie presented her update at the beginning of the meeting because she had to leave early.
- Debbie announced that she is leaving the hospital on February 22. The Committee thanked her for her service.
- Debbie provided an update on PATH and CATS programs, which Springfield is coordinating with the Department of Corrections on.
- Debbie also discussed RRP referrals and central admissions.

II. Review and Approval of January meeting minutes; discussion importance of minutes (Jeannette)

- We don't have January or November minutes to present to the committee yet. Susan is finishing the minutes from November.

III. Review and vote on letter to LBHA authority (Jeannette and Committee)

- Jeannette provided a summary of the contents of the LBHA letter and our requirement for approving the letter. Discussed the draft letter prepared by the Executive Committee.
- The Committee discussed LBHA—the number of persons placed in Residential Rehab Programs (RRPs), referrals to mental health services, and the systemic gaps and roadblocks that prevent people from being discharged.
- The Committee discussed the content of the approval letter and voted in favor of the following changes:
 - Add a citation for the 4% figure—motion made by Jennifer Jones and approved by unanimous consent.
 - In the list of providers that the county needs to fill vacancies and generally increase the numbers of, add “psychologists”—motion made by Libby Nealis and approved by unanimous consent.
 - Add language to that same list of providers from the MHAC Priorities document making clear that we recommend hiring “especially those” who are multilingual and those who are fluent in sign language—motion made by Jennifer Jones (and others) and approved by unanimous consent.
 - Remove the sentence that includes “affluent tax base” and replace it with the following: “While Montgomery County is blessed to have a great array of services, treatment and services for individuals with mental illness are still lacking.”—motion by Jennifer Jones and approved by unanimous consent.
 - Add a reference to Info Montgomery to point number three—motion by Garrett and approved with unanimous consent.

- The Committee discussed data availability for County data; Scott Green talked about data availability contracts that the County uses to make data collection easier.
- Jennifer Jones posed a question about point number three and care coordination.
- Garrett moved to adopt the LBHA approval letter with the agreed upon changes. Celia seconded. The motion passed with 7 y, 0 n, and one abstention.

IV. Discuss current MHAC Priorities and set SMART goals for each (Jeannette, Tami, Garrett)

- a. Advocate for the full continuum of criminal justice programs, including mental health court, deflection and diversion initiatives with the goal of decriminalizing mental illness and substance abuse.
 - The Committee discussed Mental Health Court statistics provided in the meeting packet and having someone from the court come out to update the Committee on its progress.
 - Needs: more FACT teams, RRP beds, and forensic beds.
 - The Committee discussed the apparent disconnect between the drug court and mental health court, integration of SUD and mental health treatment, and asking AAODAC for data on the drug court.
 - The Committee discussed Restoration Centers. Jeannette and Diane will reach out to Councilman Katz's office, or Garrett will if they are unable, to ask for an update on the County's plans for a Restoration Center.
 - The Committee discussed the number of beds available for individuals with mental illness in the County, 340 public and 40 private beds, and 130 HOC supported housing. Scott Green discussed the fact that there are always vacancies despite much more demand than supply. The reason for the vacancies is the difficulty in finding an appropriate vacancy for individual patients. There are male and female beds as well as general and intensive beds.
 - Celia agreed to email Diane to forward to the Committee some data on housing that the Committee can use to further discuss the issue.
- b. Expand access to mental health professionals especially through innovative approaches.
 - The Committee discussed the Parity at 10 project.
- c. Continue to advocate for a county-wide coordinated system of care for children, transition-age youth, and adults.
 - The Committee discussed the Nexus program, which consists of a database of Emergency Department visit data, the fact that we don't have access to that database, that the database could provide real-time alerts if a clinician's patient presents at the ED.
 - The Nexus program also includes crisis beds and an ACT team.

V. Spring Forum Update (Garrett)—Garrett updated the Committee on the first meeting of the Spring Forum committee's work. No speaker, topic, or caterer has been selected yet due to only three people participating in the first meeting. The location and date have been chosen.

- Location: Bohrer Park Gym, 506 South Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- Date and time: Thursday, May 2, 2019, from 4:00 – 9:00 pm

VII. Behavioral Health and Crisis Services update (Scott Green)

- Scott updated the Committee on the work of BHCS.
- He discussed the current legislative session in Annapolis.
- One bill is of particular concern - BHCS—SB 482, a bill that would change mental health services from a carve out from managed care to a carve in (in other words, it would incorporate mental health funding and services into managed care organizations). The bill could have huge impact on the system. BHCS does not support it, and neither does MHAMD.

VIII. Announcements

- [unknown event] March 20, 3-7 pm
- LBHA forum on May 16.

IX. **Meeting Adjourned 9pm**