

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes – February 6, 2020</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam		Whitney Mardosa	Rebecca Garcia	Regina Morales
Jeannette Bjorklund	Elizabeth Rathbone	Meredith Peace		
K. Dietrich Curran	Amy Sutter			
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett				
Jennifer Grinnell				
Jamie Gu				
Helga Luest				
Garrett Mannchen				
Tami Mark				
Jennifer Jones				
Libby Nealis				
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				

Guest Speaker: The meeting came to order at 7:10 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Ellen Weber, JD from the Parity 10 Project

- Parity 10 Project is working to pass 2 bills in the General Assembly – SB0334 and HB0455. They are cross filed. Parity bills were previously introduced in 2013, 2015, and 2019.
- This year's bill is pushing for Compliance with the current law. The goal is to have carriers submit annual reviews to ensure that they are in compliance with the Act. Some of the data to be collected: out-of-network utilization, review carrier reports for 3 years to establish baseline (recommended), corrections to any violations, and penalties applied. There was discussion regarding penalties since MD Insurance Administration (MIA) is hesitant to apply penalties. Carriers should report on 5 most popular plans. Carriers always appeal their penalties.
- In Senate, Augustine, and, in House, Kelley, are negotiating with MIA over differences.
- Currently, panels are being assembled to testify at hearings, scheduled for later this month. Consumers' experiences are very important to share.
- The second bill being negotiated focuses on assisting consumers using "out-of-network" providers for mental health and substance use disorders. If excessive time and distance has to be incurred, this bill would approve "in-network" deductibles and cost share plans. Single entry case agreements will be able to be established to set realistic rates.
- Community education is very important to publicize this bill. Postcards will be developed for this. Contact Ellen for more information.

Old Business

- January minutes: Tami approved; Garrett seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements/Discussion

- Nomination Committee for Executive Committee: Nomination Committee consisted of Susan Smith, Meredith Peace, and Ziva Azhdam. Susan presented the approved (and agreed to) slate of candidates. Garrett and Jeannette for Co-Chairs and Helga for Vice Chair. The new slate was unanimously approved and will start immediately. The Executive Committee will be in office until October 2020.
- Proposed Federal SNAP Legislation: The Baltimore County Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) sent a letter to Governor Hogan and the Maryland Congressional Delegation urging the resistance of any adoption of SNAP cuts in the federal budget. The MHAC unanimously agreed to use the BHAC's letter as a template and to write a letter of support on the MHAC letterhead. Celia made the motion and Michelle seconded it.
- Spring Forum Committee: Diane stated that the Committee met the week before our meeting. She is coming back to the MHAC for suggestions for themes and speakers for the Forum. There was discussion of having Aliya Jones, MD, as a speaker. Dr. Jones is the new Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health in the State Department of Health.

- The upcoming March meeting was discussed: Dr. Ingrid Donato of SAMSA will be presenting.
- Legislative Committee presented bills to support through Advocacy letters: The following bills were discussed and presented by the Committee for support
 - a). the 2 Parity bills (discussed earlier) will get letters of support;
 - b). the Telehealth bill will get an updated letter of support (from previous bill presentation);
 - c). the MHAC will be adding our name and support to the existing “Keep the Door Open” previously announce agenda for 2020.

Other bill was discussed as well, and it was decided that the bills focusing on school issues would get enough support from the Kirwan Commission. All letters of support would be copied to the Montgomery County delegation. Celia may write an additional letter focusing on HB 65 and the trauma-informed care and training that should occur in schools.

Celia made motion and Michelle seconded the decision that the Legislative Committee will write letters mentioned above very quickly. Celia commended the Legislative Committee for doing very thorough work.

Springfield Hospital Update

Whitney presented that 33% or 73 patients are Montgomery County residents. She also stated that both Segway 1 and Segway 2 are both fully staffed.

Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Update: Rebecca Garcia not in attendance. Diane will check with both Teresa Bennett (Acting Director for Behavioral Health and Crisis Services) and Rebecca Garcia (Acting Director for LBHA) to get written updates if they cannot attend a meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

- Suicide Prevention: The Committee is still looking at engaging other groups to work with. The Commission on Aging has been approached and the schools are being discussed.
- Mobile Crisis Team: The subcommittee is currently identifying the data currently collected regarding the Mobile Crisis Team activities as well as the data the subcommittee thinks should be collected. A white paper will be developed to reflect all the information the Subcommittee collects along with recommendations and best practices that have been identified.
- Mental Health Parity: This has been discussed throughout meeting.

There was a motion to adjourn made by Tami and seconded by Ziva. The meeting adjourned to the Subcommittees.