

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Minutes – May 7, 2020</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Jennifer Jones	Teresa Bennett	Whitney Mardosa	Jessica Kronstadt
Jeannette Bjorklund	Elizabeth Rathbone	Meredith Peace		Regina Morales
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Amy Sutter			
Jennifer Grinnell				
Jamie Gu				
Helga Luest				
Garrett Mannchen				
Tami Mark				
Libby Nealis				
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				
Susan Smith				

- I. Welcome - The meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m. This is the first virtual meeting of the MHAC. Members were asked to announce themselves and put their microphones on mute unless speaking.
- II. Updates on how the Covid Virus is affecting different Mental Health services.
 - a. Jennifer Grinnell, Representative Every Mind – Jennifer reported that Everymind has given all Suicide hotline personnel remote phones, so they can work from home. They have been doubling volunteers on Hotline shifts. They have seen a big increase in calls and volunteers. Their Homeless services have been providing street outreach and food distribution. Everymind has been providing phone calls instead of home visits to all their friendly visitor clients – this is a program for the elderly. Everymind did a virtual movie screening of the movie “Angst”, there was a huge turnout. They have also been providing Mental Health first aid training online. Jennifer was asked about the anxiety level for the elderly, she reported that the anxiety level is very high, and staff have made sure that each of their clients have food and medication.
 - b. Meredith Peace, Representative Crisis Center – Crisis center is continuing to function, calls and visitors have slowed down almost by 75%. They have suspended their residential beds but are going to open soon on a limited basis. Staff have PPE and can social distance when meeting with clients. Their Psychiatrists have been able to do telehealth. Their PRNS are now going to Dennis Ave which is set up as Covid hotline. School nurses have also been staffing the hotline at Dennis ave. Mobile Crisis is not able going because the Police are unable to go out with them. Shelters are working hard to separate the homeless, but it is difficult to space people out.
 - c. Michelle Grigsby, Affiliated Sante – Outpatient Clinic PRP program services are using telehealth. Nurse are still giving injections for medications for clients. They are receiving calls from families regarding overdoses, death notification and they are responding in person wearing PPE.
 - d. Discussion about Telehealth and MHAC should continue to advocate for it as a standard way of treating clients versus temporary. Celia suggested that we write a letter to Optum Health and BHA. Teresa Bennett suggested that the Child Trauma network is looking at more secure ways of doing telehealth
 - e. Susan Smith, Homeless services representative – stated that she got a report from Kim Ball and will report on that. The men’s shelter has 70-80 men. Crabbs Branch shelter has isolation for 15-20 men with the virus. Long branch shelter has 70-80 men. Interfaith Men and women shelter has isolation space. Georgia avenue shelter was space for 20 men and 20 women. Laytonville Shelter has space for 20-50 women. Services to end and prevent homelessness are operating in Bethesda. Homeless services have received an additional million dollars for short term rental assistance for families that have become homeless from the virus. They are working on getting landlords with vacancies to use them for homeless folks. The system is paying for security deposits and any other damages.
 - f. Teresa Bennett – Outpatient Mental Health is using telehealth for seeing clients. There was an early release for nonviolent inmates who were close to their release dates.

III. March meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Subcommittee updates

- a. Mobile Crisis team subcommittee – Garrett and Meredith reported that they were interviewed by Crisis now group from the Primary Care Coalition. Part of that group was a consultant from Arizona who designed Crisis program there. Primary Care Coalition will email us their draft proposal for review. The group also met with the Crisis Center staff and discussed 23-hour lounge chair beds for clients who are possibly in need of detoxing and clients who do not need to go to hospital for psychiatric review but need services quickly. Everymind has also met with the group to discuss Suicide hotline model. Montgomery, Baltimore and St Mary's county are all writing proposals to obtain Crisis now grant thru SAMSA.
- b. Suicide Prevention subcommittee – Helga reported that the subcommittee has not met recently but prior to the virus shutdown she met with members of the Commission on Aging. The recommendations that were made are no longer relevant. There is a huge rise in suicide attempts especially aging adults. Helga asked for Diane to set up a video conference to have the subcommittee meet.
- c. Mental Health Parity – Jeannette reported that the subcommittee has not met recently but on the last call of the Parity 10 group it was discussed that Senator David Trone is a big supporter and the new Maryland Insurance Commissioner is reaching out to the group to discuss parity.
- d. Celia Serkin reported that Diane had forwarded her email about the Kirwan Commission updates – the bill was vetoed by Governor Hogan because funds are being diverted to the Virus. The Federation of Families is having a virtual fair for transitional age youth- Diane also forwarded that email.
- v. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.