

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – April 1, 2021

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jamie Gu	Ziva Azhdam	Regina Morales		Hardy Bennett
Helga Luest	Jeannette Bjorklund	Meredith Peace	Michael Maher	Kim Euler
Garrett Mannchen		Kyle Potter		Margaret Mattson
Tami Mark	Jennifer Grinnell	Rolando Santiago		Samikshya Sapkota
Libby Nealis	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett			
Celia Serkin	Elizabeth Rathbone			
Susan Smith				

- I. **Welcome** - The meeting came to order at 7:05 p.m. Members were asked to announce themselves and put their microphones on mute unless speaking.
- II. **Speaker:** Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief Behavioral Health and Crisis Services and Regina Morales, Regina Morales, Director Local Behavioral Health Authority. To speak on Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Budget. Please see attached budget slides presentation.
- III. **Minutes** – Minutes from March were reviewed. There was not a quorum to make a Motion was made to accept the minutes. Minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. **Spring Forum** – subcommittee has been meeting regularly. The theme is Confronting Barriers to Mental Health and Addiction services: equity, isolation and the digital divide.” We have three speakers to address each issue and then a panel at the end to answer questions from the community. To speak on Isolation we have Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT, Director Trauma Informed Services, Practice Improvement & Counseling, National Council for Behavioral Health. To Speak on the Digital Divide, we have gotten

Donna Keating, Media Services Manager, Community Engagement and Digital Equity Programs, Office of Broadband Programs, Montgomery County, Department of Technology Services. To speak on Equity we have gotten Dr. Alan Leshner, Former Director of NIDA. We are attempting to do short vignette videos from members of the public prior to each speaker and their topic. Diane will be sending out the finalized flyer early next week. Everyone should register. Forum will be in place of scheduled MHAC meeting on May 6.

- b. **AODAAC Representative** – Margaret Mattson from AODAAC reported that AODAAC has been working and responding to legislation and have advocated for five different bills. They are working to increase their collaborative efforts and have joined with several groups. They are also working on the Spring forum. They are working on a fall forum which will be a three-part mini-series on Substance Abuse, Addiction and Treatment. Garret reported that he is going to write a letter to the County executive so that AODAAC can be an ex-officio on the MHAC.

V. **Springfield Hospital Report-** Michael Maher was not in attendance to make a report.

VI. **Subcommittee Reports -**

A. Legislative Subcommittee – Huge thank you to Libby and Celia who worked so hard to get out Advocacy letters. We monitored the legislation, waiting for it to go to the opposite chamber and were able to send out three letters. Leslie Frye who is our legislative person thru the county will come to speak with the MHAC members in June.

B. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee – Garrett reported that subcommittee is meeting Monday, April 5, 2021. The speaker will be Natalie Corazosa, from the County Council.

C. Suicide Prevention Subcommittee – Michelle was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

D. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience – Helga reported that the committee did not meet this month and is really in need of more members so that work can be accomplished.

VII. **Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners** – None

VIII. **Meeting Adjourned** – meeting ended at 9pm