

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – February 4, 2021</h2>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Jamie Gu	Michael Maher		Kim Euler
Jeannette Bjorklund	Helga Luest	Regina Morales		Dorne Hill
Jennifer Grinnell		Meredith Peace		Jessica Kronstadt
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Elizabeth Rathbone	Rolando Santiago		Jenny Lynn
Garrett Mannchen				Samikshya Sapkota
Tami Mark				
Libby Nealis				
Celia Serkin				
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 of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services and Regina Morales, Director, Local Behavioral Health Authority to discuss Strategic planning.
  - A. Dr. Santiago discussed the Crisis Now Models and how it fits the treatment and recovery area of the Strategic Alignment plan system of care follow up. The different systems of care are Promotion and Prevention, Integrated Call center, Crisis Response and Stabilization Center.
  - B. Integrated Call Center – needs to be equitable, compassionate, and set up to be the first response to Behavioral Health Crisis intervention.

- C. Stabilization Center – is a short-term facility, to mimic features of an emergency room but for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Crisis. Smooth system to go from crisis, to recovery to recover. It needs to cover all those bases.
- D. Dorne Hill, Manager of the Crisis Center- discussed that the Stabilization center will be a 24-hour service and will have the ability to send clients to other services necessary for recovery. Dorne reported that they are in the process of hiring 6 new therapists to work on the Mobile Crisis team for the Crisis center. They will have 3 new mobile Crisis teams so that they can cover 16 hours of the day and weekends. They are going have stations in Germantown and Silver Spring. They will be able to assess when police are needed to accompany the Mobile Crisis team and will follow the Crisis Now model. They are contracted with CAHOOTS which is a de-escalation training and has a huge community education piece. No matter what the need the center will funnel you to the correct service.
- E. Comments from the Commissioners –
  - Elements with-in a Crisis
  - meet the clients and their families where they are.
  - With the Community education piece, less families will feel like they cannot call. Quite beneficial to the spectrum of crisis of care.
  - Peer involvement would be crucial.
  - hotline will be the first line of defense.
  - Need to have elements to help the homeless population.
  - Clients in need of mental health services need to be able to obtain mental health appointments in a timely manner, now it is taking almost 4 months to get an appointment.
  - 911 integration – how can you make it, so they are able to ask mental questions as of now it is very difficult with program they must use and questions they must ask.
  - Honest with the county council about how many beds and services are needed.
  - Make sure to find a way to connect with the families of the clients as they will be able to help the client give their story and want to be informed.
  - Integration of Substance Abuse and Mental Health – use the social determinants.

III. **Minutes** – Minutes from January were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor.

IV. **New Business**

- a. **Spring Forum** – subcommittee met last week and is meeting again next week. They are working on developing their theme.
- b. **Volunteer to serve as liaison with AODAAC and attend their meetings’.** – Ziva and Celia both agreed to switch off attending meetings.
- c. **Mental Health Association of MD** – Legislative briefing on February 22. Diane emailed out information to sign up to attend.

V. **Springfield Hospital Report-** Michael Maher reported that Whitney Mardosa would no longer be our representative as she has taken another position. The hospital is working hard to get their staff and patients vaccinated.

## **VI. Subcommittee Reports -**

**A. Legislative Subcommittee** – Libby reported that only two members of the subcommittee attended the meeting last week. Libby and Celia went over the MHAC priorities and the bills that were recommended by the MD Mental Health association. The bills that they decided to prioritize are attached to the minutes. A motion was made to accept the Legislative subcommittees bills and the legislative subcommittee will write letters in support. The motion was seconded, and all were in favor.

**B. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee** – Meredith reported that the subcommittee met last week, and Beth Tabbachnick attended the meeting, she is working with the Mobile Crisis team and has worked extensively with the Crisis Center. She gave the subcommittee a great deal of information about her experience with the Mobile Crisis team and the police.

**B. Suicide Prevention Subcommittee** – Michelle reported that the subcommittee continues to meet with the county committee that was formed by Regina Morales. The MHAC subcommittee is going to meet again at the end of the month after the MD Mental health association has their legislative briefing.

**VII. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners** – Diane was asked to email out the invitation to the Commission on Persons with disabilities meeting where they are having a panel to discuss the Student Resource Officers being removed from the schools. Diane was also asked to email out all materials received on the Student Resource officers bills and a letter from Councilwoman Nancy Navarro on the issue. Diane also reported that our March meeting speaker would be Darren McGregor who is Director of Crisis Services for the State of MD to speak on state's efforts to improve crisis services, including the state's goals, the current projects, barriers you have identified, best practices, what data sources you rely on, and any other information you would like the committee to be aware of.

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