

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – January 7, 2021</h2>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Elizabeth Rathbone	Regina Morales	Whitney Mardosa	Cynthia Elliot-Amadon
Jeannette Bjorklund		Meredith Peace		Jessica Kronstadt
Jennifer Grinnell		Rolando Santiago		Jenny Lynn
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett				Dan Martin
Jamie Gu				Samikshya Sapkota
Helga Luest				
Garrett Mannchen				
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:** Dan Martin, Legislative Director Mental Health Association- to discuss upcoming Mental health legislation

- A. 40% of Marylanders are feeling panic due to the pandemic. There has been an increase in Drug and Alcohol related deaths and the need for Mental Health services.
- B. Covid 19 is affecting black and brown communities at a high rate. Race and Equity are going to be huge issues for the State legislature.
- C. Bills we will see in the upcoming MD legislative session will be on; Access to Telehealth during and after the Pandemic, expanding overdose prevention sites, Crisis response grant program and Suicide prevention.
- D. MD Legislative session will also be introducing a bill on MD Suicide Fatality Review Committee.
- E. Are going to probably override Governor Hogan's Veto of the bill on the Kirwan Commission. State legislature wants expand School supports
- F. State Legislature is also going to see bills on services for youth involved with Juvenile Justice system- Mental Health services and Diversionary services.

III. **Minutes** – Minutes from November were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

IV. **New Business**

A. **Spring Forum** – Diane asked for volunteers for the Spring Forum 2021 committee. Celia Serkin. Helga Luest, Libby Nealis and Jennifer Grinnell all volunteered.

B. **Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience** – Helga. Helga did a slide show presentation which unfortunately cannot be distributed to MHAC members. Slide show discussed how the environment is changing and how it is negatively affecting our Mental Health

V. **BHCS Report** – Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief Behavioral Health and Crisis Services and Regina Morales, Acting Director of Local Behavioral Health Authority.

- A. Both Dr. Santiago and Ms. Morales introduced themselves and gave us information about their professional history.
- B. Dr. Santiago stated that he had read over the MHAC priorities and was very impressed by their actions.
- C. Dr. Santiago stated that there will be budget items related to the Crisis Now models and they are working on filling the 6 positions allocated to the Mobile Crisis team. Working on de-escalation with the police and the community.
- D. The slide was started and Regina narrated the slide show. It will be attached to the minutes.
- E. Will have further discussions with the MHAC on Strategic planning and will keep them up to date with budget concerns.

VI. **Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Mobile Crisis Subcommittee** – Garrett reported that the subcommittee met a few weeks ago and are still working on priorities

B. **Suicide Prevention Subcommittee** – Michelle reported that the committee met this last week and discussed the priorities to see what work needed to be done on each priority. They need to discuss with Jennifer Grinnell of Everymind what needs they have for the Suicide Prevention hotline. Recently the county

expanded funding for the text and chat services. Also discussed was the need for MCPS representation on the subcommittee and on the MHAC. Diane will work on the MCPS representation. Data that was presented from the Suicide prevention Coalition was underrepresented in the amount of attempts in 2021. A letter was written by Helga Luest to email out to Jamie Raskin who's son recently attempted Suicide and passed on. MHAC voted in favor of the letter. Diane will email the letter.

VII. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners –

- A.** Diane reported that Vacancy announcement for MHAC members has gone out. The email was sent to MHAC members to pass along to the community.
- B.** Jenny Lynn from the Policing Advisory Committee was in attendance at the meeting and is gathering folks who are involved with Mental Health services for her Mental Health services subcommittee.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 9pm