

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Draft Minutes – July 2, 2020</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Jennifer Grinnell		Teresa Bennett	Jessica Kronstadt
Jeannette Bjorklund	Elizabeth Rathbone	Meredith Peace	Whitney Mardosa	Samikshya Sapkota
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Amy Sutter			
Jamie Gu				
Jennifer Jones				
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. **Minutes** – Minutes from June were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes as is. Motion passed
- III. **Commission on Aging Letter** – Helga Luest

- a. Helga reviewed the letter – discussion ensued
- b. Motion was made to send the letter – motion was passed. Letter will be sent to County Council and the County executive

**IV. Mobile Crisis subcommittee testimony**

- a. Garrett reviewed both sets of testimony that was written for hearing on the 6 added positions to the Mobile Crisis team thru the Crisis Center. Both he and Zivaa Azhdam wrote testimony. It was decided that Garrett would read Zivaa's testimony at the hearing and submit both testimonies electronically.
- b. The letters were reviewed and discussed – motion passed to send both sets of testimony.

**V. Letter in support of Black Lives matter movement** – Garrett wrote a letter for the Mental Health advisory committee to put on their website in support of the Black Lives matter movement. It was decided to table the letter for now and continues to review and revise the letter. Both Helga Luest and Michelle Grigsby said they would both assist Garrett.

**VI. Letter on Telehealth** – Concerns that Optimum may decide not to reimburse for telehealth services that are being provided because of the Covid 19 virus. Celia Serkin and Tami Marks agreed to write the letter.

- a. Mental Health Advisory committee passed a motion to authorize Celia and Tami to write the letter with the approval of the executive board. The letter will be written by next week and sent out shortly after that. Motion was passed.

**VII. Budget Priorities for FY-21-** Members of the Mental Health Advisory Committee voted to table the discussion for now and the September meeting will be a full discussion about the priorities

**VIII. Updates from MHAC Commissioners**

- a. **Jennifer Grinnell, EveryMind** – Jennifer was absent from the meeting.
- b. **Meredith Peace, Crisis Center** – Meredith reported that Crisis Center is still using telehealth and both of their psychiatrists are using it with success. Crisis Center is having clients who do not have access to technology to use ipads and cameras that are located at the Crisis Center to meet with staff. Clients are able to sit in a private location while using the ipad and camera. The Crisis Center is still at 50% capacity. Crisis Center is also providing services for people discharged from jails and they can come in without an appointment from 10-2 daily. They are seeing the homeless population grow as many folks from other jurisdictions are trying to get housing in Montgomery County. They still have access to a hotel in Silver Spring where they can house people who have Covid and have nowhere to quarantine.
- c. **Michelle Grigsby-Hackett, Affiliated Sante** – Agency has started their re-opening planning to bring back in-person day program and PRP community programs. They are still using tele-health and when necessary to visit clients they are asking clients to meet them outside with PPE.
- d. **Susan Smith, Homeless Services** – Staff are doing welfare checks with PPE on and they have new vouchers for the homeless. There have been issues with clients who were given Personal Living Quarters for the Pandemic being kicked out of their spaces. There is no money to expand the program
- e. **Whitney Mardosa, Springfield Hospital** – Whitney was absent from the meeting.

**VI. Announcements**

a. There was discussion on upcoming speakers for meetings. Jennifer Jones discussed have Diego Urbero and Byron Johns possibly to a meeting. Craig Rice was also discussed.

b. It was concluded that September meeting will be discussion of priorities and October meeting will be the Forum

c. Diane announced that Spring Forum is now the October forum and will be held on October 1 in place of the MHAC meeting. The meeting will be held virtually thru teams

VII. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 9pm