

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Final Minutes – November 7, 2019

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Rebecca Garcia		Hayley Flores
Jeannette Bjorklund	Jennifer Jones	Whitney Mardosa		Samikshya Sapkota
K. Dietrich Curran	Libby Nealis	Meredith Peace		Sidney Tan
Jennifer Grinnell				
Jamie Gu				
Helga Luest				
Garrett Mannchen				
Tami Mark				
Elizabeth Rathbone				
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				
Amy Sutter				

- **Speakers:** Ingrid Donato who was supposed to speak tonight about national evaluation efforts on Mental Health had to cancel
- Elizabeth Rathbone, Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement, Coordinator Student health and Wellness speaking on how the school system is presently addressing Mental health needs. Presentation will be emailed out to Diane who will forward to members
- **Old business:**
 - Minutes from October 2019 – minutes were approved and motion passed
- **Announcements/Discussion items**
 - Budget Priorities – Garrett attended annual meeting with Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council on October 17, 2019.
 - Budget Hearings – K. Curran went to one of the County executives budget hearings. K discussed the County executives plan to make budget a two year process that meets the “Turn the Curve” initiative. Diane will email everyone the link to the County Executives plan. K. discussed that the “Turn the Curve” initiative discusses Early Childhood, affordable housing, climate change, White Flint metro stop and a 10 year plan.
 - Commission to study Mental Health, State of Maryland – Jennifer Grinnell will be our representative at these meetings. Jennifer stated that the first meeting was to have families come to discuss their difficulties accessing affordable mental health services.
 - No Meeting in December
- **Subcommittee updates**
 - Mental health parity – Jeannette reported that her subcommittee held a teleconference with six other counties in Maryland to discuss how they can form a coalition to support Mental Health parity campaign. Some of the counties were nervous about advocating for parity but Jeannette was able to talk about the issues facing MD residents and this seemed to put everyone in alignment.
 - Suicide Prevention – Helga stated that they had recently held a teleconference and had divided up looking at resources for special populations in Montgomery county.
 - Mobile Crisis team – Garrett stated that they had met and come up with a list of potential speakers that will be forwarded to Diane to contact. They are also working on a white paper identifying the problems that exist in the County and why they need to expand the team.
- **Update from Springfield Hospital**
 - Receiving patients from all over the state but most are from MC and working with LBHA – recently met with Local Behavioral health authority from Montgomery County to discuss this issue
 - Census is 216 patients
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- **Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Update**
 - Reported that each program has to submit their budget and write out narratives for the County executives office 2 year budget program to meet the measures in the “Turn the Curve initiative” Have to follow Department parameters, and review

budget outcome with leadership team who will then make recommendations to Office of Budget Management

- Large void in Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) with staff vacancies
- Rebecca Garcia will be acting as director of LBHA until position is filled. Teresa Bennett is acting director of Behavioral health and Crisis services.
- Optum services with Scott Greene is now the CEO.

Does not have a lot of information about the budget as people are trying to fill in positions so does not have a lot of information to share

- Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.