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| | <h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – November 5, 2020</h2> |
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| Members Present | Members Absent | Ex-Officio and Staff Present | Ex-Officio and Staff Absent | Guests |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Ziva Azhdam | | Whitney Mardosa | | Vitek Grant |
| Jeannette Bjorklund | Michelle Grigsby-Hackett | Meredith Peace | | Jessica Kronstadt |
| Jennifer Grinnell | | | | Belqui Rios |
| Jamie Gu | Elizabeth Rathbone | | | Samikshya Sapkota |
| Helga Luest | | | | |
| Garrett Mannchen | Amy Sutter | | | |
| 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 July and September were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes. Motion was 2nd. All were in favor.
- III. **Nomination Committee**- Jennifer Grinnell and Jamie Gu. Jamie announced the nomination slate for the executive committee for FY-21; Garrett Mannchen and Helga Luest for Co-Chairs. Michelle Grigsby-Hackett for Vice Chair. Motion was made to accept the nomination slate, Motion was 2nd. All were in favor.

IV. New Business

- a. **Forum** – Diane asked how Committee members felt about having the Spring Forum in the fall in October or did they want it returned to its original month which was in May. Members told Diane that the Forum should be in May to coincide with Mental Health month. Diane will start organizing Spring Forum in January.
- b. **Maryland Mobile Integrated Health Symposium – Ziva Ahzdam and Susan Smith.** Both Susan and Ziva were in attendance at the Symposium and reported that they discussed the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance helping out on the Streets) program and the Crisis Now model. Discussion about how the police have been handling Mental Health Crisis response in Montgomery County and how it can be turned over to the Crisis Center.
- c. **Discussion on Priorities – The MHAC needs to decide on their top three priorities for the fiscal year. Garrett is going to meet with the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council on November 19 and our priorities have to be finalized and voted on at this meeting. Below are the priorities from last year and number 4 was added this year. If we are to adopt three priorities Commissioners have to be willing to volunteer to work on the committee. (Attached is the document that has more information about each priority)**
 1. **Ensure Residents Right to Mental Health Parity:**
 2. **Respond to the County's Rising Suicide Rate**
 3. **Improve the County's Crisis Response System:** Despite being the largest county in Maryland, Montgomery County has only one mobile crisis unit to serve the entire county for most of the year

4. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience

MHAC members were asked to vote on which priorities they wanted to work on in FY-21. Motion was made to adopt the following: Respond the County's Rising Suicide rate, Improve the County's Crisis Response system and Environmental impacts on Mental Health and Resilience. The Motion was 2nd. All were not in favor. Two votes; Michelle Grigsby and Tami Marks voted against. Over 2/3 of the members were in favor of adopting the motion. Motion was finalized.

MHAC members were asked to write in chat section which subcommittee they would like to be on. Diane will set up meetings for subcommittees in December.

V. Updates from Commissioners on services during the Pandemic

- a. **Jennifer Grinnell – EveryMind-** Reported that Everymind is continuing to provide services without a break. Every Hotline shift now has double staff and on the heaviest shifts the staff have been tripled All services continue to be done thru tele-health. Everymind has been doing weekly townhalls with parents regarding school issues.
- b. **Meredith Peace – Crisis Center** – County Executive has asked Crisis center to have two mobile Crisis teams available during the election cycle this year. The

Crisis Center has not seen an increase in needs for services or increase in calls for assistance. Crisis center Rehab beds continue to be closed due to the pandemic. They are awaiting sneeze guards to be installed despite the fact that the guards have already arrived they are awaiting the building management to put them in. Currently, there are 7 ½ positions advertised for the Mobile Crisis team and therapists.

- c. **Susan Smith – Homeless Services-** Currently, they are separating shelters and there is a moratorium on evictions for housing programs. HOC applied for 100 new housing vouchers for folks who are between 18-61 years of age. People need to be on the waiting list for a voucher to get one. Housing services continues to provide no contact services.
- d. **Whitney Mardosa – Springfield Hospital –** Reported hospital will be able to start back up admitting patients to their programs. Recently had a virtual meeting with Montgomery County to discuss the discharging of patients from Springfield, how can they make sure patients are able to obtain Social Security cards and other necessary documents.

VI. 8:50 – 9:00 - Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners –
Susan Smith reported that the State was asked again to have another pilot program on Assisted Outpatient therapy and was told that the legislature will be possibly hearing another bill on this topic.

VI. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 9pm