

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Minutes – October 3, 2019</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Rebecca Garcia	Meredith Peace	Hyun Martin
Jeannette Bjorklund	Jennifer Jones	Whitney Mardosa		Samikshya Sapkota
K. Dietrich Curran	Elizabeth Rathbone			Sidney Tan
Jamie Gu	Celia Serkin			Jessica Yi
Jennifer Grinnell				
Helga Luest				
Tami Mark				
Garrett Mannchen				
Libby Nealis				
Susan Smith				
Amy Sutter				

- **Old business:**
 - Minutes from September 2019 – minutes were approved and motion passed
- **Budget priorities:**

- October 17th annual meeting for all boards and committees to meet with the Health and Human Services committee of the county council to share each of their priorities
- Working on finalizing the 3 priority areas
- We need to be able to be clear about our ask and back it up with data to show why it would be helpful to meet these priority areas
- We recognize that by next week we will not have the statistics from the crisis center on the additional 2 staff and showing the data to support that need.
- Discussed showing some data around the immigrant population and their needs. Helga mentioned this.
- “Turn the Curve” – county executive this is his new mission, all of the 7 priorities and 21 indicators are held. Tying to measure the success of the services that are in the county and how well we do it and what is the differences in people’s lives.
- It was mentioned that so many people are DV survivors and cannot get into shelters. – mentioned wanted to be able to find more resources for clients
- Diane commented that we cannot take on more priorities in this committee and there are other commissions that are targeted for those issues such as Victim Assistance commission, Domestic Violence task force, Homeless, Veterans, etc. We need to let them deal with those issues.
- MHAC and Mental Health for Disabilities and Mental Health for Homelessness working to meet with MHAC to have a shared mental health statement
- Helga mentioned that “safety” seems to be an overarching theme for all of the committees and populations.
- Rebecca Garcia confirmed that one of the county’s priorities is safety and this is right in line.
- **Upcoming Speakers:**
 - November 2019 - Elizabeth Rathbone to come and speak and she is a member of the committee and she will be speaking and updating on BTheOne. Ingrid Donato may come to speak also about resources for Montgomery County and at the State level but she has not confirmed
 - December – no meeting
 - January 2020 – Dan Martin – upcoming legislation and activates the legislative committee
 - Helga has connected with SAMSHA speaker to hopefully come and present at MHAC – Diane will help subcommittee get this speaker lined up
 - Teleconference for Parity on October 29, 2019 – 3 MHAC members will be participating
- **Update from Springfield Hospital**
 - Receiving patients from all over the state but most are from MC and working with LBHA
 - Segway 1 and 2 are open. Both have capacity for 16 each.
 - These are d/c from Springrove and Springfield and other hospitals
- **Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Update**
 - Scott Greene no longer with LBHA/he was acting as 2 positions with Dr. Crowel moving up

- Large void in Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) with staff vacancies
- Rebecca Garcia will be acting as director of LBHA until position is filled

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

- State vacancies
 - Barbara Bazeron left and they are actively recruiting for that position
- BHA
 - Going through a lot of changes, merging both MH and SA has been a challenge. A consultant was hired to work with all of the local CSA and LAA to merge services and complete self-assessments from each organization
- Developed a work group called a System of Care Workgroup
 - Addressing crisis stabilization services and how across the state how are they being run
- Hiring new regional coordinators which is new – starting to look at what all of the local centers are doing
- LBHA gets dictated by the State on how to use the money so now the State needs to focus more on what the local LBHA are doing to monitor the money.
 - Tami asked if there was any decision made on carve out services
 - Rebecca responded that there is a lot of advocacy to stop that process and developed a lot of workgroups to advocate. She will keep us posted if any additional news comes up.
- Beacon Health lost the bid and Optum is now the CEO of Optum. Optum will be in place on January 1, 2020
 - Some explanation of how Optum works
- Montgomery County Mental Health Outpatient Clinics
 - Diane reported that Aetna will now be accepted as a private insurance and possible BC/BS
 - Mental health therapists are angry about this addition because the people who need the services because they are concerned that people who do not have health insurance will have to wait longer to get Mental Health services.
- Libby asked if the MHAC has certain mandates that need to be reported:
 - Diane said we can go through the legislation to confirm but for meeting our mandates, we get reports from Springfield Hospital, work with other commissions and it is recent that we were able to impact State and Federal legislation that this committee can do that. This committee decided that they wanted to commit to focusing on MC and the State of MD.
 - Rebecca also shared that LBHA is mandated to work with MHAC
 - Jeannette shared that in the orientation packet it outlines all of the regulations and states what the mandates are.
- Diane shared that if any of the subcommittees want to have a speaker, send a letter, do a site visit, advocate in Annapolis – all of these requests must go through her for approval and the appropriate process. She will assist and make sure we are meeting the correct guidelines.

- Helga asked what about some data and could we all do our own research. Diane said yes but to make sure that Diane knows we are reaching out with the approval of Diane before we reach out and represent ourselves from MHAC.
 - The subcommittee needs to keep Diane in the loop on group emails and phone calls
 - Reminder to make sure we are focusing on MC and stay within the county as much as possible
- Mental Health advisory Committee members and members of the public broke up into subcommittees to discuss next steps.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.