

# Mental Health Advisory Committee

**Final Minutes – September 5, 2019**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Ex-Officio and Staff Present</b>	<b>Ex-Officio and Staff Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Ziva Azhdam	Celia Serkin	Michael Maher	Raymond Crowel	Jessica Kronstadt
Jeannette Bjorklund	Amy Sutter	Meredith Peace	Scott Greene	Samikshya Sapkota
K. Dietrich Curran				Jessica Yi
Jamie Gu				
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett				
Jennifer Grinnell				
Jennifer Jones				
Helga Luest				
Tami Mark				
Garrett Mannchen				
Libby Nealis				
Elizabeth Rathbone				
Susan Smith				

- I. **Welcome MHAC Members and Guests** (Jeannette Bjorklund, Chair)  
II. **Speaker – Libby Nealis- Mental Health Commissioner** – speaking on Decarceration, CHIP and Medicaid.

- Libby attended a Capitol Hill briefing, "The Decarceration of Transition Age Youth with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Mental Disorders: Responding to an Emerging Problem". Youth with disabilities (as well as minority and LGBTQ youth) are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.
- Increasing numbers of transition age youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental illness have become incarcerated in our county jails, approx. 5-10 percent of the jail population. Some of these youth have complex health problems, including mental illness. Most have fallen off the radar of local health and human services programs. Almost all have failed to make the transition from youth to adult services.
- Potential solutions discussed: Decarceration and diversion of these youth into community services; prevention of incarceration through better outreach and care coordination; and better use of home and community based services.
- Sponsors of this briefing include the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors, the National Association of Counties, the National Sheriffs Association, the National Association of Social Workers. Contact Libby for info/resources from the briefing.
- Medicaid/CHIP(State Children's Health Insurance Program) can be used to serve youth with mental and behavioral health needs in the justice system, as well as in schools.
- New Rules in Medicaid per Dec 2014 CMS letter, announces change in "Free Care" rule; school system can now be reimbursed for mental health services by Medicaid-eligible providers <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/smd-medicaid-payment-for-services-provided-without-charge-free-care.pdf>
- Maryland must now make changes to State Medicaid program through a SPA (State Plan Amendment) to clarify exactly where/how/by whom Medicaid can be used. Libby is pursuing information on who might be working on such plans in MD. Libby and Elizabeth Rathbone are working on a letter to the Council to advise and recommend maximizing the advantages of changes in Medicaid;
- Libby spoke to Lynn Mueller from Maryland State Department of Education to come and talk to Committee. Lynne had been previously tapped to come speak on the Kirwan Commission and plans to support better school safety and mental health programs.
- Kirwan Commission – every 15-20 years, a Commission is formed to figure out how money is allocated to school system based on need. Concerns that Montgomery County is not receiving all of the money that they should get. At present there is a Kirwan Commission model in 8 schools in the county which provide a full time Mental Health coordinator.
- Lynne Mueller, MSDE and colleague from MD Center for School Safety, will come to a future MHAC meeting to strengthening MH supports in school and more MH Coordinators

**III. Old Business:**

- A. Review and Approval of April, June and July meeting minutes** – Minutes were voted on and all were in favor of accepting as is.
- B. Budget Priorities** – The Budget priorities for FY-20 were voted on and all were in favor. They are as follows;
  - Mental Health Parity
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Mobile Crisis unit
- C.** Subcommittees were made for each issue and it was decided that each subcommittee would work on legislation in their group. Subcommittees will let Diane know if they need a teleconference and will have two co-chairs.
- D.** Liaison for AODAAC – Elizabeth Rathbone agreed to be Liaison as she is already an Ex-Officio on AODAAC.
- E.** It was asked for someone to volunteer to be the Mental Health parity liaison and attend teleconferences. Jeannette has been attending but needed a back-up. No-one volunteered.
- F.** Sign up sheet to take minutes at the meetings were also passed around.

**IV. Springfield Hospital** – Michael Maher gave a short explanation about Springfield hospital as we have many new members. It is one of 5 hospitals in MD. They have 3 admission units and 10 units to house Mentally ill clients. There are patients from all over MD but mostly Montgomery county. There are 74 patients from Montgomery county at present. There is a step down program called Segway run by a private non-profit this is a program to house clients who are no longer in need of hospitalization but need housing and other supports.

**V. Announcements**

- A.** Susan Smith Housing member- reported that there are 99 vouchers that were issued for housing. They have to make sure 84 of those people are signed on leases. Have hired someone to make sure this happens
- B.** Sami Sapkota from Asian American Commission handed out pamphlets designed to assist older Asian Americans.

**VI. Mental Health advisory Committee members and members of the public broke up into subcommittees to discuss next steps.**

**VII. Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.**