

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – September 3, 2020</h2>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Jeannette Bjorklund	Meredith Peace	Whitney Mardosa	Samikshya Sapkota
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett				
Jennifer Grinnell	Helga Luest			
Jamie Gu	Elizabeth Rathbone			
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 were reviewed. Motion could not be made to accept the minutes as there was no quorum
- III. **Quarterly meeting with BCC – Garrett**
  - a. Dr. Crowel updated the commissions on the coronavirus and how the county is responding. It was asked when there would be an announcement on the new Director of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services. Dr. Crowel reported that the vacancy should be filled before the end of the year.

- IV. **Statement about Black Lives** – Garrett reported that a letter had been forward to his subcommittee Michelle Grigsby and Helga Luest from another Commission. Hopefully, this will be finalized and can be voted on by the November meeting.
- V. **Nomination Committee** – Diane asked for 2-3 volunteers to sit on the nomination committee. You should only volunteer if you are not interested in being nominated to sit on the executive committee. Please email Diane if you are interested. After nomination committee is set up a letter will be sent out to all of the Commissioners asking for nominations to the executive committee.
- VI. **Fall Forum** – Diane announced that the flyer for the Fall forum will be emailed out to everyone on September 8. Diane asked everyone to please forward the flyer to everyone's contacts. Diane stated the Forum will be held on October 1 from 6pm-8pm, and everyone should register to attend as this Forum is in lieu of our regularly scheduled meeting.
- VII. **Discussion about Priorities FY-21** - Priorities from last year were put on the agenda and emailed to everyone. It was discussed at the meeting that the priorities from last year were still relevant and in need of further work by the MHAC. Diane was asked to send out a doodle poll to the commissioners asking if they wanted to continue with the priorities from last year and or add new ones. A vote could not be taken because there was not a quorum. Updates to the priorities.
  - a. Crisis Center – received 6 new positions to expand their mobile crisis team. MHAC testified in support of this.
  - b. Mental Health Parity – Letters were written in support of legislation from the State
  - c. Suicide prevention – letter were sent to the county council members and county executive. Everymind has received increases in funding for their chat function and hotline.
  - d. Celia suggested that Trauma informed care is a part of all of our priorities.
- VIII. **Updates from MHAC Commissioners**
  - a. **Jennifer Grinnell, EveryMind** – Jennifer reported that 40 more phones were given out to interns and volunteers to man the hotline. They were also able to increase their pay for the overnight shift. It was asked if there has been a change in the type of phone calls received at the suicide hotline, Jennifer reported that there are more kids on the text and chat line and there is an increase in domestic violence. The hotline has been tracking trends since the Covid outbreak. They have also been working closely with mcps to connect students with counselors. They have seen an increase in clients showing up to telehealth appointments.
  - b. **Meredith Peace, Crisis Center** – Meredith reported that Crisis Center is still using telehealth and both of their psychiatrists are using it with success. They have also started offering in person appointments for school referrals and telehealth as well. Schools are now emailing referrals versus faxing them as they have done in the past. The Crisis center got 6 new positions for the Mobile Crisis team. Now there are three levels for the Mobile Crisis team, the first level is they go out by themselves with out the police. This will happen in schools or at group homes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> level, they may have the police at the meeting depending on the nature of the situation. The 3<sup>rd</sup> level is having the police at the meeting, this is in situations where there is a danger or the person has a dangerous history.
  - 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. Agency is looking at

safety issues for moving forward. There is concern about engagement drop off when telehealth is no longer allowed.

- d. **Susan Smith, Homeless Services** – HOC has been given 30 voucher subsidies that are going to people in the homeless system. HOC was given 1.4 million by the Cares act Covid Rental Assistance program. These are short term subsidies so people can pay rent who have lost jobs. Landlords get the funds' and this will help with back rent.
- e. **Whitney Mardosa, Springfield Hospital** – Whitney was not at the meeting but emailed the following statement. Springfield Hospital Center currently has 70 patients from Montgomery County. The hospital's census at present is close to 220, at capacity. Springfield and other state facilities continue to be under a tremendous amount of pressure to admit patients from the detention center as quickly and safely as possible. Our facility has responded admirably to these challenges and continues to do so. The hospital has a tremendous infection control department led by Jennifer Bunce and the command center has been in operation since the beginning of the pandemic with ongoing close communications with the Carroll County health department and other agencies. There have been a total of 7 patients who have tested positive for co-vid 19. The last time a patient tested positive was on June 29. Twenty-six employees have tested positive with the last positive staff case was August 19. Contact tracing occurs in all of these instances. All staff wear masks and patients are asked to do the same though compliance among patients varies often depending on where they are psychiatrically.

The social work department continues to maintain routine contact with the CSA and the providers as we continue with our aftercare and discharge planning with the modifications that are needed to assist patients in moving to lesser restrictive settings as may be indicated.

**VI. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 9pm**