

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – January 6, 2022</h2>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jamie Gu	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Michael Chindbloom	Michael Maher	Evelyn Burton
Jennifer Grinnell	Garrett Mannchen	Regina Morales	Rolando Santiago	Dan Martin
Stephanie Joseph	Saher Rizvi	Meredith Peace		Margaret Mattson
Susan Kerin		Kyle Potter		Laura Mitchell
Helga Luest				Samikshya Sapkota
Tami Mark				Jamila Sobratti
Libby Nealis				Robin Yasinow
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				
Heather Thompson				

- I. **Welcome** - The meeting came to order at 7:04 p.m. Helga Luest, Chair, requested that members put their microphones on mute, unless speaking. There was a quorum of committee members.

II. Speaker– Dan Martin, senior director of public policy with Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) gave an overview of their legislative priorities related to the 2022 session of the Maryland General Assembly. MHAMD represents over 100 organizations. They have an aggressive legislative agenda this year and the key priorities are:

- a. Behavioral Health Modernization Act which will fund large-scale system enhancements to the community health, primary care and crisis response network. This includes funding for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs); reimbursement for collaborative care models and peer support specialists; and expansion of home and community wrap-around services for children and youth. The legislation also asks for turning on Medicaid billing for crisis services. The bill is sponsored by Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Heather Bagnall.
- b. 988 Funding which will establish a funding account and provide for \$10 million in initial seed money. This bill is sponsored by Senator Augustine and Delegate Karen Lewis-Young.
- c. Children and Youth Needs are being supported through legislation on system reform which will ensure that programs are youth-lead and youth-designed. The legislation will also improve the Volunteer Placement Agreement (VPA) protocols.
- d. Legislation for Older Adults as this is an overlooked population, Data shows that Maryland's population is aging and that older adults have had significant increases in suicide; longer institutional stays; and high rates of overdose. The legislation will support having behavioral health navigators at Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and modernize the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR).

Mr. Martin invited committee members to MHAMD's Advocacy Day on February 17th.

III. Minutes – Minutes from November were reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. New Business

- a. Fair Housing Stakeholder meeting - Susan Kerin attended this meeting in December. It is a regional initiative to conduct an "Analysis of Impediments" to Fair Housing. Barriers mentioned included discrimination, criminal history, bad credit and larger families (needing more than 2 bedrooms)
- b. Spring Forum Subcommittee Volunteers – Diane Lininger asked for volunteers to help plan the Forum. Jennifer Grinnell, Helga Luest, Celia Serkin and Libby Nealis volunteered to help.
- c. Upcoming Meetings – February's meeting will focus on a report back from the legislative subcommittee. March's meeting will include a panel of emergency responders on climate change, mental health and resiliency.

V. BHCS Report – Reginia Morales reported that BHCS has almost completed their strategic plan which they will share during the next MHAC meeting. The plan

includes a protocol for mobile crisis dispatch. There will be a public comment review of the plan. Ms. Morales also shared that the Crisis Center has been approved to be a CCBHC; they have received funding from County Council for covering 988 services; and they are hiring peer support specialists for the mobile crisis teams.

VI. Springfield Hospital Report – Michael Maher was absent and unavailable to provide a report.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee – An invite has been sent for a subcommittee next week.
- b. Legislative Subcommittee – A meeting is scheduled for January 10th.
- c. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience Subcommittee – This subcommittee is working on the panel discussion scheduled for the March MHAC meeting.

Ms. Lininger invited committee members to contact her if they had an interest in attending any of these subcommittees.

VIII. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners

- a. Laura Mitchell with the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAC) shared that AODAC has identified partners to help them with tracking legislative priorities in the Maryland General Assembly.
- b. Ms. Mitchell also shared that the Handle With Care program has started in upper Montgomery County. This is a program where law enforcement will inform school personnel if a child/youth had a traumatic event so that the school could either provide services or excuse the child/youth from normal activities.
- c. Celia Serkin announced that her organization received a HRSA grant to help increase COVID vaccinations among consumers. They are partnering with the University of Maryland and the Sante Group.
- d. Susan Smith shared that the county has a free taxi service for individuals with a disability or who are over 65 who need to get to a vaccination site.
- e. Ms. Mitchell shared that the Wellness Center at Wheaton High School has “Wellness Wednesdays” during lunch where there are events and opportunities for students to discuss and learn more about mental health and substance use concerns. Some of the activities have included smoking cessation and a “broken crayon” event. She welcomed suggestions for activities during future events.

A. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.