

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – January 3, 2023

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jennifer Grinnell	Jamie Gu	Michael Mayer	Michael Chindbloom	Donna Cawley
Stephanie Joseph	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Regina Morales	Kyle Potter	Laurie Doyle
Susan Kerin	Helga Luest	Meredith Peace		Bill Ellis
Libby Nealis	Tami Mark	Rolando Santiago		Carmela George
Celia Serkin	Garrett Mannchen			Elyse Grossman
Susan Smith				Maureen Matson
				Laura Mitchell
				Alan Orenstein
				Sara Rose
				Amy Ruddle
				Samikshya Sapkota
				Ruth Vargas
				Robin Yasinow

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. Susan Kerin chaired the meeting. There was a quorum of committee members.
- II. **Overview of Maryland State Behavioral Health Legislation** – Lori Doyle, Public Policy Director for the Community Behavioral Health Association, highlighted the CBHA’s legislative priorities. She noted that because of the new Administration, there are a number of changes across Committee and Committee Chairs. There is also new flexibility in the budget process allowing legislators to modify the Governor’s proposed budget. She noted that individuals can sign up to be part of the transition team for the Health Committee or offer comments through the website: mooremillermd.com.

Some of the legislative priorities of the CBHA during the 2023 legislative session include a Behavioral Health Blueprint (similar to the Kirwan Commission for Education); expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHs); a value-based payment pilot; preserving telehealth especially for equal payment and providing an audio – option; and overall community behavioral health rate increases. There will also be legislation to do a collaborative care pilot, build a behavioral health workforce fund; and allow nurse practitioners to serve as ACT prescribers. There is a safe use site which has been offered in other States as a harm reduction effort.

- III. **Old Business**

- a. November minutes – The minutes for November, 2022 were approved.

- IV. **New Business**

- a. LBHA Letter – Sara Rose shared that the Local Behavioral Health Authority is working on their 3-year plan for 2024-2026.
- b. AODACC Update – There has been several Fentanyl overdoses of county youth, so AODACC has been redoubling efforts at MCPS to raise awareness of Fentanyl-laced substances and expand the distribution of Narcan more broadly. There will be a Countywide forum at Northwood on January 28th. AODACC will hold their legislative discussions on January 12 and MHAC members are invited to collaborate.
- c. Update from BHCS – The new Montgomery County Health Director will begin in February and Dr. Santiago will be involved in the orientation/briefing. BHCS is still working with Rockville City regarding the location for the Restoration Center. BHCS has a SAMHSA grant which will be used to expand staffing of therapists, paraprofessionals and case managers. They had a CARF audit which went well. Regina Morales responded to the MRSS subcommittee regarding several questions. Specifically, BHCS welcomes the subcommittee serving as the foundation for an eventual Workgroup on the issue. BHCS did not get applicants for their RFP for MRSS services.
- d. Update from Springfield Hospital – The hospital has had another breakout of COVID. They are near capacity and full staffing. They are working on a

program to help patients with English as a second language. And also working on a Patient/Family education program.

- e. Next Meeting – At the next meeting on February 7th, the focus will be on MHAC's legislative work.
- f. Updates on Applications for New Members – Several candidates were already interviewed. However, there is another vacancy notice to solicit more candidates. MHAC members were encouraged to share the notice to increase the candidate pool.
- g. Collaboration with Other Boards – Diane Lininger sent out an invitation to other County Board/Panels about potential collaboration. The Chair for the Citizen Review Panel for Children expressed interest, particularly for their work supporting LGBTQ+ youth in foster care. Susan will follow up but invited other members to join this conversation.
- h. Spring Forum – Diane invited MHAC members to join the planning for the Spring Forum. It will be held virtually on May 18 with the theme Disparities and Barriers to treatment for substance use and mental health. Jennifer Grinnell, Susan and Libby Nealis volunteered.

III. Subcommittees – Members reported back on the following subcommittees

- a. Medicaid Reimbursement for School Services – This group met with Larry Epps. Libby noted that Michigan has a model approach. Because of Administration changes, this subcommittee may need to focus on research and hold for a bit on any action.
- b. Prevention – The subcommittee met with Jennifer Grinnell about 988 which serves as a universal prevention resource. The group discussed approaches to address some of the language challenges for those whose native language is not English.
- c. MRSS – Some of their efforts were referenced in the BCHS report. Because of the importance of stabilization and continued services for youth, Celia Serkin requested that BCHS share a schematic of services. Dr. Santiago agreed and offered to expand the schematic to incorporate more community-based services.
- d. Workforce Development – Due to time constraints, a report back was not provided.

V. Announcements from Commissioners and/or the Public

- a. Celia shared a few Advocacy Day events: [MCF Family Legislative Family Day](#) in Annapolis (February 2nd) [and MHA's Legislative Reception](#) (February 18th).

IV. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at 9:04 pm.