

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Minutes – January 2, 2024</h2>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Bill Ellis	Jennifer Grinnell	Rolando Santiago	Michael Mayer	Viviana Azar
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Kelly Gruitt	Meredith Peace	Jordan Satinsky	Ziva Azhdam
Stephanie Joseph	Joshua Lemere			Evelyn Burton
Susan Kerin	Tami Mark			Donna Cawley
Marissa Leslie				Caroline Davenport
Garrett Mannchen				Lori Doyle
Libby Nealis				Muhammad Hasan
Alan Orenstein				Jeffrey Innocenti
Celia Serkin				Arnecia Moody
				Sara Rose
				Justin Saffar
				Vivian Yao

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. Libby Nealis chaired the meeting which was held virtually.

- II. **MHAC under the LBHA** – Diane announced that MHAC will now be under the auspices of the Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA).
- III. **Mental Health Legislation** – Lori Doyle, public policy director for the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland noted that many 2023 priorities were passed which now need to be implemented. These include rate increases; value-based purchasing; more certified community behavioral health centers (CCBHCs); Kids services; a 4-year omnibus bill; and workforce funding/needs assessment. New legislation that may be introduced include the budget; AOT; increased RTC accreditation; school based mental health; an immunity clause; behavioral health carve out; utilization/fail first; and a 988 telecom tax.
- IV. **County CIT Legislation** – Caroline Davenport with Councilmember Luedtke's office shared details about upcoming legislation in the County Council related to providing co-responding Public Safety/HHS CIT responses for those instances where police response was needed. MHAC members had both praise and criticism of the legislation. The hearing is on January 16th. By majority vote, MHAC agreed to develop testimony of support for the legislation, incorporating some of the concerns (e.g., handcuffing of individuals).
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **November Minutes** – The November minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.
- VI. **New Business.**
 - A. BHCS update – Dr. Santiago reported that BHCS is working with MCPD to develop a fiscal impact statement for the CIT legislation. He appreciated the focus on creativity that the legislation had. With regard to MHAC priorities, BHCS is working to incorporate two of the requests (increased reimbursement for crisis staff and incorporating social workers into rec centers). For the peer organization request, he indicated that they instead are supporting increased slots for government peers. Susan Kerin asked for more details about the case that Councilmember Mink cited of an MCOTs incident of concern. Dr. Santiago shared that Councilmember Mink spoke to the crisis service staff and expressed that the original description of the situation was inaccurate.
 - B. Commission on Health Update – Donna Cawley shared that the Commission finalized their legislative priorities. These include an environmental protection campaign; working to address food insecurity (choice pantry options and cold pantry); data; and healthcare for uninsured.
 - C. AODAAC/Going Purple Update – Celia Serkin shared that AODAAC also had a presentation on the CIT legislation. AODAAC will have an in-person retreat on January 11th and MHAC members were invited.
 - D. Suicide Prevention Coalition – The coalition has been focusing on leveraging the \$1 million suicide prevention grant received by Sheppard Pratt. They are providing free trainings to providers. They are also focused on school-based responses.
 - E. CAYAS update – Michelle Grigsby-Hackett reported that the subcommittee had their first meeting to lay the foundation on the data needed and topics to cover. They meet monthly and next week's meeting (January 16th at 4 pm) will include a presentation by Youth Move National.

- F. Mental Health Parity Letter – Libby reported that due to time constraints in getting through the process, MHAC was unable to sign onto the parity letter.
- G. Spring Forum Committee – Diane noted that the first meeting will be in February and she was soliciting membership. Celia, Libby and Michelle volunteered.

VII. Announcements

- A. February Meeting – Shawn Lattanzio, Program Manager II, Child & Adolescent Coordinator Behavioral Health Planning and Management Montgomery County Local Behavioral Health Authority will give a schematic on Montgomery County Childrens Mental Health services.
- B. March Meeting – MHAC will have an in-person meeting at the Compass Health facility where Dr. Leslie works. It will include a tour.
- C. Advocacy Day for Maryland Coalition of Families – Celia shared that the advocacy day will occur in Annapolis on January 25th.
- D. [John Hopkins CETA Program](#) – Susan shared that she attended a SAMHSA presentation from someone with the HHS Behavioral Health Workforce Council. The presentation was on the CETA program which has demonstrated how to alleviate workforce by providing faster treatment times.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at **9:05** p.m.