

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes – July 5, 2022</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Jamie Gu	Michael Maher	Michael Chindbloom	Laura Mitchell
Jennifer Grinnell	Garrett Mannchen	Regina Morales	Rolando Santiago	Samikshya Sapkota
Stephanie Joseph	Tami Mark	Meredith Peace		
Susan Kerin	Saher Rizvi			
Helga Luest	Susan Smith			
Libby Nealis				
Kyle Potter				
Celia Serkin				

- I. **Welcome** - The meeting came to order at 7:06 p.m. Helga Luest chaired the meeting. There was a quorum of committee members by the time that voting activities (e.g., the minutes) occurred.
- II. **Recent Youth Suicide** – Regina Morales noted that there were two recent youth suicides in the county. The Montgomery County DHHS is issuing an advisory which will also reference the new 988 line. It will be sent to schools within MCPS.

- III. **Discussion on MHAC FY-24 Budget priorities** – MHAC members discussed several potential budget and advocacy priorities:
- a. **Promote and Support Utilizing Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)** – Celia Serkin stated that this priority would work in partnership with the current Crisis Now Model by utilizing the MRSS model specifically for children, youth, young adults, and their families. There is a need for TA services to explore ways to integrate MRSS with the County's existing and evolving crisis response systems and in so doing, provide a continuum of services that addresses the increasing intensity of needs and connects individuals to care beyond the moment of crisis. Michelle Grigsby-Hackett has provided TA on this for the Eastern Shore.
 - b. **Expansion of Medicaid Dollars for Behavioral Health** – Libby Nealis and Laura Mitchell noted that there have been State convenings on this. However, the decisionmakers are the State Medicaid entity and there doesn't seem to be the political will to change the rules.
 - c. **Expansion of Montgomery County Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinic** – Diane Lininger reached out to Viviana Azar, the Clinic Director, about needs that they have. Regina Morales also shared background. The mental health clinic serves as the safety net for mental health crisis and there has been a wait list of 150 children and adolescents. The Adult mental health clinic doesn't keep a wait list, but there is a greater demand that exceeds the available services.
 - d. **Expand the availability of the mental health workforce to meet the demand of Montgomery County residents; ensure culturally appropriate services; and reduce wait times** – This may not have an immediate budget request, but it has been a perennial issue. Some of the strategies mentioned included reaching out to higher education entities to expand the pipeline, incentivizing the current workforce, and expanding the scope of paraprofessional responsibilities.
 - e. **988 Roll-out** – Helga Luest recommended focusing on additional support to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline which serves as the 988 resource. Jennifer Grinnell who works with EveryMind noted that they have received county increases to their budget but are facing staff shortages.

MHAC tentatively decided to make their budget priorities to be funding TA to implement an MRSS approach and expanding the Montgomery County Child and Adolescent Health Clinic/Adult Health Clinic. The workforce issue will be an advocacy priority.

IV. **Old Business**

- a. Minutes from June were reviewed. Jennifer Grinnell motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Michelle Grigsby-Hackett. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

V. New Business

- a. **No August Meeting and Switching Meeting to the first Tuesday of the month** – Diane reminded MHAC members that there would not be an August meeting. Beginning in September, MHAC will meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
- b. **AODAAC update** – Laura Mitchell reported that AODACC doesn't meet in July and August. They are working on their priorities and also changing their charter to remove stigmatizing language. The legal community has reached out to AODAAC to get more information about Shatterproof, an anti-stigma campaign.
- c. **Next meeting** – The next meeting will be on September 6th. It was agreed to discuss further the priorities. In addition, MHAC will invite Viviana Azar to speak about the needs and long wait list for the Montgomery County Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinic.
- d. **Priorities Draft for County Council** – Helga Luest will work on a draft for review at the September meeting.
- e. **Elections for Executive board in October** – Diane Lininger requested volunteers for the nominating committee.

VI. Springfield Hospital Report – Michael Maher reported that the system network at Springfield has been restored. The hospital is looking to hire more social workers. While there have been some staff who have gotten COVID, there are no quarantine/exposures in the admission units. They recently had a Town Hall Meeting for the public which had a good turnout.

VII. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners

- a. Laura Mitchell noted there is a "Montgomery Goes Purple" campaign to highlight National Recovery Month and Overdose Awareness Day.
- b. Celia Serkin has been participating in the Behavioral Health Coalition. They have a campaign called "[Equal Treatment](#)" which is focused on educating political candidates regarding the growing demand for mental health and substance use care.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at 9 pm.