

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – June 3, 2021

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Jeannette Bjorklund	Michael Chindbloom		Leslie Frye
Jennifer Grinnell	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Meredith Peace		Muhammed Hasan
Stephanie Joseph	Jamie Gu	Kyle Potter		Jessica Kronstadt
Susan Kerin		Rolando Santiago		Margaret Mattson
Helga Luest				Laura Mitchell
Garrett Mannchen			Michael Maher	Samikshya Sapkota
Tami Mark				
Libby Nealis				
Saher Rizvi				
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				
Robert Tettlebach				
Heather Thompson				

- 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. **Speaker:** Leslie Frye, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs – to speak on how MHAC’s legislative subcommittee can best affect legislation. Presentation attached.
- III. **Introduction of New members** – Garrett introduced our new members and each of them gave a short biography about themselves; Bob Tettlebach, Michael Chindbloom, Kyle Potter, Stephanie Joseph, Susan Kerin, Saher Rizvi and Heather Thompson.
- IV. **Minutes** – Minutes from April were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes. No minutes from May because Virtual Spring Forum was held instead
- V. **New Business**
 - a. **Spring Forum** – Huge thank you to all of the members of the Spring forum subcommittee. The forum was held in lieu of our regularly scheduled meeting on May 6. The theme was Confronting Barriers to Mental Health and Addiction services: equity, isolation and the digital divide.” We had three speakers to address each issue and then a panel at the end to answer questions from the community. To speak on Isolation we have Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT, Director Trauma Informed Services, Practice Improvement & Counseling, National Council for Behavioral Health. To Speak on the Digital Divide, we have gotten Donna Keating, Media Services Manager, Community Engagement and Digital Equity Programs, Office of Broadband Programs, Montgomery County, Department of Technology Services. To speak on Equity, we had Dr. Alan Leshner, Former Director of NIDA. There were 93 people in attendance at the event. Diane will update the website with the recording of the event.
 - b. **AODAAC Representative** – Margaret Mattson from AODAAC reported that AODAAC had collaborated with MHAC on the Spring Forum. They are working on a fall forum which will be a three-part mini-series on Substance Abuse, Addiction and Treatment. AODAAC sent a letter to the County Executive and County Council asking for a change in their name to Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Council. They have also recently filled their vacancies on the Council and upgraded their website.
- VI. **Springfield Hospital Report-** Michael Maher was not in attendance to make a report.
- VII. **BHCS Report** – Dr. Santiago reported that on June 4 they had the grand opening of the Avery Road Treatment Center. The Center was rebuilt after numerous complaints that the building was not in good condition
- VIII. **Subcommittee Reports -**
 - A. **Mobile Crisis Subcommittee** – Garrett reported that subcommittee met with Julia Soloman, liaison to the police that is working on a grant for the mobile crisis team. The committee gave Ms. Soloman a realistic picture of crisis services today.
 - C. **Suicide Prevention Subcommittee** – Michelle was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.
 - D. **Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience** – Helga was not at the meeting. Subcommittee is meeting on June 16 at 5:50pm. Diane sent out a “teams” invite

IX. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners – None

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 8:20pm