

	<h2 style="color: blue;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h2> <p style="color: red;">Minutes – March 3, 2022</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Jennifer Grinnell	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Regina Morales	Michael Chindbloom	Avital Graves
Jamie Gu	Tami Mark	Rolando Santiago	Michael Maher	Molly Hauck
Susan Kerin	Saher Rizvi		Meredith Peace	Adriana Hochberg
Garrett Mannchen			Kyle Potter	Laura Mitchell
Helga Luest				Louise Mitchell
Stephanie Joseph				Alan Orenstein
Libby Nealis				Samikshya Sapkota
Celia Serkin				Douglas Weisburger
Susan Smith				Nanci Wilkinson

- I. **Welcome** - The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. Helga Luest chaired the meeting. There was a quorum of committee members.

Before the meeting started, there was a moment of silence for those impacted by the explosion at the Friendly Garden Apartment earlier in the day. Chair Luest also noted

that President Biden's recently released [Strategy Report to Address Our National Mental Health Crisis](#) reflects a growing awareness of mental health needs and provides for substantial funding to address these needs.

- II. Panel Discussion – Representatives from Montgomery County's Fire and Rescue Service; Montgomery's Department of Environmental Protection; and Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan gave presentations about climate change, mental health and resiliency. Chair Luest noted that the UN just released [its report](#) on climate change which listed mental health consequences as one of the four main challenges.

- III. **Minutes** – Minutes from February were reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. **New Business**

- a. Spring Forum – Diane Lininger reported that the group met this week for the second time. There are two approaches being explored. One will be to have the U.S. Surgeon General present. The other is to focus on youth and how parents can help. There would be a youth panel as part of the program. The MHAC approved by unanimous consent to not convene a committee meeting in May and rather encourage members to attend the Spring Forum on May 19th.
- b. Town Hall meeting on Mental Health Access – Susan Kerin shared that there were over 200 attendees at the Town Hall and the elected officials allowed ample time for questions. There was some tension as several individuals had expressed difficulties with accessing services. Chair Luest noted that the Town Hall demonstrated that elected officials are placing more emphasis and resources to the issues. Workforce concerns came up during the discussion.
- c. AODAC – Laura Mitchell invited MHAC to attend the AODAC meeting next week as they have Shatterproof discussing the stigma index they created. She also added that the University of Maryland has contacted them about a survey they are doing in rural areas in terms of providing substance use disorder services. Celia Serkin added that AODAC has been doing a lot of work on legislation at the Maryland General Assembly.
- d. BHCS Report – Rolando Santiago reported that BHCS has developed a common triage protocol regarding mobile crisis response (e.g., when to dispatch with and without police accompaniment). It is currently being reviewed by the Union as well as some community stakeholders. With regard to staffing, they have hired seven therapists for the mobile crisis teams and are looking to hire at least 14 more. The number of mobile crisis dispatches has nearly doubled in the past year. With regard to the Crisis Now model, BHCS is working to create a Restoration Center as well as a stabilization unit with four recliners.

Regina Morales shared that the next meeting for the Suicide Prevention Coalition is April 7th. The Coalition is interested in increasing mental health first aid among staff, with a special emphasis on youth.

- V. **Springfield Hospital Report** – There was no report this month.

VI. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee – There was no report this month.

- b. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience Subcommittee – The Subcommittee has been working on today’s presentation.
- c. Legislation Committee – MHAC has issued a significant increase in the written testimony for legislation. Ms. Lininger will get the letters posted to the website.

VII. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners – There were no additional comments.

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