

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h2> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;">Minutes – November 7, 2023</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Stephanie Joseph	Joshua Lemere	Rolando Santiago	Michael Mayer	Evelyn Burton
Susan Kerin	Garrett Mannchen	Jordan Satinsky		Arnecia Moody
Bill Ellis	Tami Mark	Meredith Peace		Sara Rose
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Kelly Gruitt			Meghan Westwood
Jennifer Grinnell				Virginia Cain
Alan Orenstein				
Libby Nealis				
Celia Serkin				
Marissa Leslie				

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:09 p.m. Susan Kerin initially chaired the meeting. The meeting was held at Avery Center and there was a virtual option.

- II. **Vote on New Executive Committee** – MHAC unanimously approved the nominations of Libby Nealis as chair and Michelle Grisby-Hackett as co-chair. Libby Nealis took over chairing the meeting.
- III. **Tour** – Meghan Westwood, Executive Director of Maryland Treatment Centers, gave the in-person MHAC members a tour of Avery Road Treatment Facility
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **October and September minutes** – Both minutes were unanimously approved with no edits.
- V. **New Business.**
 - A. **Meeting with HHS Committee** – Susan shared that at least three other groups at the priorities hearing referenced mental health as a priority. Other thematic priorities were housing concerns, workforce issues, the need for better data; and more coordination across agencies. In terms of our priorities, the County Council requested more data on the effectiveness of peers. It was recommended that we reach out to the groups working on mental health priorities and offer our support to them.
 - B. **County Council Bullying Proclamation** – Libby shared that she represented MHAC at this proclamation. Other stakeholders included community organizations and MCPS. Diane said it was the first time that MHAC was invited to this proclamation.
 - C. **BHCS Update** – Dr. Santiago shared that Emily Keller, Maryland’s Special Secretary of Opioid Response, spent the day with staff at BHCS. She toured several programs and was involved in a town hall with citizens, including family members who lost loved ones as well as individuals in recovery. Dr. Santiago also shared information about several funding opportunities related to MCOTS and crisis stabilization centers. And lastly, on January 1st, Medicaid will begin providing some reimbursement for crisis services. Sara Rose shared information about multiple RFPs and work related to the LBHA plan. Arnecia Moody gave an update on how treatment services has been expanding outpatient programs by incorporating more group sessions.
 - D. **Commission on Health Update** – Donna Cawley was not in attendance to provide an update.
 - E. **AODAAC** – Celia Serkin, who is the MHAC liaison to AODACC, reported that they have been working on their budget priorities.
 - F. **Legislative subcommittee** – Libby, Susan, Celia, and Michelle volunteered to be on this subcommittee. Others who are interested should contact Diane. Non-MHAC members are allowed to participate in subcommittee work.
 - G. **Subcommittees** – MHAC agreed to continue the MRSS subcommittee but to expand it to include the continuum of care for adolescent services. Another subcommittee may be added after the legislative session. That subcommittee will now be called CAYA which stands for The Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Services. Michelle and Celia will write out a description to share with MHAC and others who might be interested in joining.
 - H. **Suicide Prevention Coalition** – Libby shared a summary from Larry Epps with Sheppard Pratt. The suicide rate in Montgomery County is lower than the State or National average but is still a problem. There is a specific effort focused on veterans

and work to expand Mental Health First Aid. Sheppard Pratt also had trainings' available to offer to the community and for CME credit.

- I. **Update on MCPS Bridge to Wellness Program** – No MCPS representative was in attendance, but Libby reported that there seems to be more effort to coordinate across MCPS offices to improve service delivery.
- J. **Update on Possible Medicaid Legislation**— Celia and Libby reported that CMS has issued new updates and meeting with school systems. Based on this, there has been discussions on whether legislation should be reintroduced or if the Medicaid standards address the needs.
- K. **December Meeting** – There will be no meeting in December.
- L. **January Meeting** – Lori Doyle, Public policy director for the Community Behavioral Health Association of MD will be giving us an update on Mental Health legislation at the State level. This will be a virtual meeting.

VI. **Announcements**

- A. **Montgomery County Federation of Families Luncheon** – Celia shared an invitation for a luncheon and presentation from a survivor of the civil war in El Salvador. It will focus on post-traumatic growth.
- B. **Journeys Program** – Meghan noted that in January, the program will offer specialty services to support those with severe mental illness. They also offer Spanish-speaking services.
- C. **Dangerous Standard Definition** – Evelyn Burton shared that there was significant work in the prior administration towards revising the dangerous standard definition. However, those comments are set to expire and erasing the work that has been done related to this.

VII. **Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.