

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – October 7, 2021

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Ziva Azhdam	Michael Chindbloom	Meredith Peace	Benjamin Abiyaki
Jennifer Grinnell	Garrett Mannchen	Michael Maher		Evelyn Burton
Jamie Gu		Regina Morales		Katie Kuennen
Stephanie Joseph		Kyle Potter		Margaret Mattson
Susan Kerin		Rolando Santiago		Laura Mitchell
Helga Luest				Sami Sapkota
Tami Mark				
Libby Nealis				
Saher Rizvi				
Celia Serkin				
Susan Smith				

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. Speakers - Speaker - Jennifer Grinnell – Director of Education at EveryMind and Katie Kuennen – Division Director, Adult & Community Services, EveryMind spoke about the 988 roll-

out. They are expecting a 3X fold increase in calls, so they are currently trying to build capacity. Presentation link is below.



9-8-8 Overview
Presentation for MHA

III. Minutes – Minutes from September were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes and minutes were approved.

IV. New Business

- a. Nomination committee – Michelle Grigsby Hackett. Michelle presented FY22 nomination slate for Executive Committee. Helga Luest, Chair and Susan Kerin, Vice Chair. Motion was made to accept the nomination slate and nomination slate was approved.
- b. Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council to meet with HHS Commissions who will present their priorities for FY22. Helga Luest will represent.
- c. Dr. Santiago filled in for Meredith Peace who was unable to attend the meeting to let the Commissioners know how the Mobile Crisis team responded to recent victims of the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Mobile Crisis team went out into the community, met with the victims and their families, and placed those who needed shelter in hotels and provided services necessary for the families.

V. BHCS Report – Dr. Santiago

- a. BHCS and DHHS- received 2nd SAMSHA grant to provide a stabilization room at the Crisis Center. And enhance assessment services for School age children.
- b. Hospitals in the area - are discussing Urgent care Centers for Mental Health located in the hospitals. State of MD will be sending out a notice of funding.
- c. Crisis Center – has been providing invaluable support to youth involved in the recent shooting at the Plum Gar Community Center. There has also been an increase in referrals from MCPS regarding youth with suicidal ideation. Crisis center had to close our four residential crisis beds temporarily for plumbing issues in the building.
- d. Access to Behavioral Health Services (Access) is moving to the Grey Courthouse.
- e. Recent graduation ceremony at the Mental Health Court –They had 16 graduates. Numbers of graduates remain the same.
- f. Discussion ensued regarding Assisted Outpatient Treatment – Celia Serkin advocated for a the MHAC to revisit this issue and have a speaker come to discuss at MHAC meeting.

VI. Springfield Hospital Report- Michael Maher

- a. They are in the process of opening a 19-bed assisted care living facility as a step-down program at the hospital. Projected to open in November 2021.
- b. Recent statistics at the Springfield hospital are there are 73 patients from Montgomery County; 25 recent admissions.
- b. BHA operations are enhancing communication and uniformity with hospitals.

c. Collaborating with Montgomery County health department to ensure that patients are discharged to structured settings so that they do not wind up in the correctional centers or homeless shelters.

I. Subcommittee Reports

a. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee – Celia Serkin reported that Dr. Heath who has written book about in home crisis treatment in England spoke at the meeting. Diane will email out materials given at the meeting.

b. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience – Helga Luest reported that she and Dr. Santiago had set up a meeting with Dan Dodgen who spoke at last months meeting to come up with a plan for Montgomery County. Subcommittee is presently researching Climate Action plans for Mental Health in other states and are also researching Resilience, Climate Change, and Covid.

II. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners –

a. Celia Serkin asked if the MHAC could give a certificate to Ray Crist for all of his volunteer work on the BtheOne website. Diane will address this. Diane will also send out a link to the Commissioners for the BtheOne website.

b. Kyle Potter, MCPS representative stated that Mental Health Awareness Week events are scheduled for November 9, 11 and 13. Diane sent an email with this information.

c. Evelyn Burton, Maryland Advocacy Chair of Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance– who is a guest at the meeting. Stated that the Lieutenant Governor for Maryland is having families testify before the DHHS Committee on proposed definitions for psychiatric deterioration. Also discussed the need for Assisted Outpatient Treatment.

III. Meeting Adjourned – meeting ended at 9:00pm