

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Minutes – November 4 2021

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Ziva Azhdam	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Michael Chindbloom		Ray Crist
Jennifer Grinnell	Tami Mark	Michael Maher		Larry Epp
Jamie Gu	Saher Rizvi	Regina Morales		Ingrid Gonzalez
Stephanie Joseph		Meredith Peace		Jenn Lynn
Susan Kerin		Kyle Potter		Liz Manley
Helga Luest		Rolando Santiago		Laura Mitchell
Garrett Mannchen				Sara Rose
Libby Nealis				Sami Sapkota
Celia Serkin				Margaret Mattson
Susan Smith				

- I. **Welcome** - The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. Members were asked to announce themselves and put their microphones on mute, unless speaking.

- II. Award** – Regina Morales and Sara Rose presented Ray Crist with a certificate from the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) for his contributions to the B4One website focused on suicide prevention. Ray Crist has also advocated for a youth ambassador program for suicide prevention which the Montgomery County's Behavioral Health and Crisis Services plans to operationalize in the near future.

- III. Speaker** – Elizabeth Manley with the University of Maryland provided a presentation on the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) which is a comprehensive approach for serving children and youth with mental health needs. Unlike the approach used for adults, MRSS aims to provide a 100% mobile response approach for children and youth followed by up to eight weeks of stabilization. New Jersey, Connecticut and Ohio have seen improved outcomes using this approach. The presentation link is below.



Comprehensive
MRSS System in MD

- IV. Minutes** – Minutes from October were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by unanimous consent.

V. New Business

- a. Garrett Mannchen attended a Special Appropriations session of County Council focused on providing a universal basic income for 300 residents. He motioned that the MHAC write a letter of support for the appropriation. Susan Smith recommended that the letter incorporate the point that the pilot will leave out many residents in need who would also benefit from this program. Celia Serkin seconded the motion for the letter.
- b. Helga Luest will represent the MHAC when the Health Commissions present their priorities to the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council.
- c. Diane Lininger requested volunteers from the Committee to be part of the legislative subcommittee. Laura Mitchell noted that AODAAC has a connection the County's Behavioral Health staff who are already tracking legislation and offered to share updates with their group. Susan Kerin noted that the Montgomery County Delegation is having a hearing on November 15 where residents can testify.

VI. BHCS Report

- a. Dr. Santiago announced several new staff hires.
- b. The County is working to establish a restoration center and the County Executive has asked for that this effort be expedited.
- c. As part of the budget process, BHCS has submitted their budget enhancements of additional needs that they want to see funded.
- d. The county has received two grants. One will expand the number of mobile crisis teams. And the other is to establish a stabilization center.
- e. The County Council is concerned about the 988 hotline and ensuring there is adequate funding.

VII. Springfield Hospital Report

- a. The hospital is recruiting for a CEO and several other vacancies including a COO, social workers (including a supervisor) and a Chaplain.
- b. The hospital is in the process of administering the COVID-19 booster shots for both patients and staff.
- c. There were 25 new admissions; 11 from Montgomery County. There were 22 discharges.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Mobile Crisis Subcommittee – There were no updates.
- b. Environmental Impacts on Mental Health and Resilience – Helga Luest reported that the subcommittee met with the Department of Environment which is working on a project with Montgomery County Public Schools. The Department has a Climate Change Coalition and there may be a role for MHAC. The Department of Environment offers a number of trainings and potential grants to accelerate systematic change.

IX. Comments or questions from the Public or Commissioners

- a. Helga Luest noted that the American Psychological Association just released a report on mental health and the changing climate.
- b. Laura Mitchell noted that AODAAC is doing a charter review to change some of their wording, including their name, to incorporate less stigmatizing language. They are basing their review on NIDA's Words Matter document.
- c. Laura Mitchell shared that four school clusters in Montgomery County are implementing the "Handle with Care" program. Specifically, law enforcement will notify schools if a youth has encountered trauma so that teachers will provide more latitude/flexibility and if warranted interventions. The details are confidential with the teachers only getting a "handle with care" note.
- d. Kyle Potter reported that MCPS is having its Mental Health Awareness Week from November 8th through 13th.
- e. Diana Lininger reminded MHAC members that there is no December meeting.

X. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.