

	Mental Health Advisory Committee Minutes – July 1, 2025
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Stephanie Joseph	Lucy Absi-Lopez	Capt. Kathy Estrada	Samar Khleif	Angela Belisario
Susan Kerin	Nick Foley	Monica Martin	Michael Mayer	Daniel Greene
Libby Nealis	Jennifer Grinnell	Sara Rose	Meredith Peace	Christine Hong
Alan Orenstein	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett			Robert Landau
Crystal Reeves	Daozhong Jin			Yngrid Lindores
Celia Serkin	Rennee Johnson			Nicole Rodriguez - Hernandez
	Bethany Lee			Robin Yasinow
	Joi Nolen			

- I. **Welcome** - The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) was called to order at 7:01 pm by MHAC member Susan Kerin. She chaired the first part of the meeting and then Libby Nealis, Committee Chair took over convening the meeting. There was not a quorum.
- II. **FY-26 Budget** – Sara Rose with the LBHA and Monica Martin with Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) provided updates on the FY-26 budget. Both noted that they have strived for stable funding and also to cover services that were covered through grants that have now ended. Monica also shared the [recent powerpoint presentation](#) to the County Council related to Public Health services.
Homelessness and Mental Health Issues – Christine Hong, Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness discussed Montgomery County housing and mental health issues. Her program works closely with BHCS in providing a continuum of care programs. She noted that there has been a 3-fold increase in the number of unhoused individuals and most of this increase are families.
- III. **Discussion on Priorities for FY-27** – The proposed priorities from the June meeting were Community-based Peers; Expanding Advisory Responsibilities; Medicaid for School-based Services; Unhoused populations; services for the “sickest of the sick,” and budget cuts. We will discuss this further. Libby asked for a meeting to be held during the summer to discuss the priorities. Diane will email everyone.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Minutes** – Because there was not a quorum, the minutes were not discussed.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **BHCS/DHHS** - Monica noted that the Governor [has lifted the moratorium](#) on new behavioral health provider enrollments for rural counties, but the moratorium remains in effect for other counties, including Montgomery. She also shared that there are [fewer overdoses](#) in the county. The Crisis center now has seven Mobile Crisis teams. They recently hired eleven new staff. The Crisis center has also hired a consultant to work on the design for the expansion of the Crisis stabilization room. Crisis center recently got their license and will be able to start billing Medicaid. Monica also reported that Council president Kate Stewart had a virtual meeting to discuss the recommendations from the in-person meeting earlier this year on Mental health needs in Montgomery County. Councilperson Stewarts staff will now be looking at youth engagement and mental health needs for youth. On June 24, 2025, County Council shared a proclamation for May is Mental Health month. Both Libby and Celia were in attendance. Recently we received a mobile health unit. The Mobile health unit will go all over the county to different sites to provide basic health and mental health screenings. They will be able to provide dental services as well.

- B. **LBHA update** – Sara shared a [factsheet](#) detailing how the Medicaid budget cuts will impact Marylanders. Medicaid is the largest and most effective anti-poverty program in Maryland.
 - C. **Legislative committee update** – we did not have time for an update
 - D. **AODAAC** –we did not have time for an update
 - E. **Nomination for executive committee in September** – Diane will send out an email.
- VI. Upcoming Meetings** – There is no meeting in August. Libby encouraged members to suggest any other topics and speakers for the September Meeting.
- VII. Announcements** - none were made
- VIII. Meeting Adjourned** – The MHAC meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.