

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes – October 3, 2023</p>
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Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Kelly Gruitt	Bill Ellis	Rolando Santiago	Michael Mayer	Ziva Azdham
Stephanie Joseph	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Jordan Satinsky	Meredith Peace	Donna Cawley
Susan Kerin	Jennifer Grinnell			Ashleigh O.
Marissa Leslie	Joshua Lemere			Sara Rose
Libby Nealis	Garrett Mannchen			Sami Sapkota
Celia Serkin	Tami Mark			Robin Yasinow
	Alan Orenstein			

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:02 p.m. Susan Kerin chaired the meeting. There was not a quorum of committee members to allow voting. The meeting was held virtually.

II. Discussion on Budget Priorities for FY-25

- A. Discuss Budget Priorities** – Susan provided an overview of the priorities document which will be submitted to County Council tomorrow. The hearing is next week. Dr. Santiago explained how the priorities are processed through HHS.
- B. Subcommittees** – Diane strongly encouraged limiting the subcommittees to just two beyond the legislative one. Two of the prior committees were proposed to continue (MRSS and Medicaid Services in Schools). Because there was not a quorum, this will be voted on in November. Diane will send a note to all members to suggest additional subcommittee ideas.

IV. Old Business

- A. September minutes** – Because there was not a quorum, approval of the September meetings will be voted on in November.

III. New Business

- A. BCC Meeting** – MHAC Co-chair, Libby Nealis, attended this meeting where she shared MHAC's priorities with the Department of Health as well as other Boards and Commissions. She noted that many of the Boards and Commissions referenced September as Suicide Prevention Month and shared this as an area of concern. I shared that MHAC would be thrilled to collaborate with other commissions on suicide prevention and other MH issues. She also mentioned that the County Council will be proposing legislation related to providing suicide-related prevention materials where guns are sold. Sara Rose shared the site for the [MARYLAND SAFE STORAGE MAP](#) where individuals can voluntarily and temporarily store their gun if they have suicide ideations.
- B. MCPS Mental Health Week** – Kelly Gruitt shared that MCPS' Mental Health Week will occur from October 30- November 4th. MCPS has developed a toolkit but will allow the individual schools to develop specific programming. SSL hours will be provided. She also noted that Jay Barnett, former football player and influencer, is doing an event that will directly engage with students and include breakout sessions. There will also be a resource fair for parents on November 4th. Kelly [provided a flyer](#) and [website](#). She asked that MHAC members promote the activities through their networks.
- C. Commission on Health Update** – Donna Cawley shared that her commission has three subcommittees: Access to Care which is focused on food security and health insurance; environmental health; and the public health workforce. They are also working to have more data driven information provided to the public.
- D. NAMI Meeting** – Susan shared that Paolo del Vecchio, Director of SAMHSA's Office of Recovery will be speaking at the NAMI national meeting in November <https://namimc.org/annual-meeting> He is also an individual with lived experience. She invited MHAC members to attend and others also.
- E. AODAAC** – Laura Mitchell was not on the call to provide an update.
- F. Nominations** – Libby Nealis is being nominated to serve as MHAC's chair and Michelle Grisby-Hackett is being nominated as Vice Chair. As there wasn't a quorum, this will be voted on as a first order of business in November.
- G. November Speaker** – Dr. Marissa Leslie suggested having a representative from Compass speak about innovative IOP approaches that can help divert individuals from inpatient services. Libby requested that we arrange for an in-person meeting either at Avery Road or the Tree of Hope.

- H. Suicide Prevention Coalition** – Diane, Sara and Celia Serkin gave an update. They noted the Sheppard Pratt has a program to leverage influencers in messaging on suicide prevention. There is also an effort to get more primary care providers (e.g. pediatricians, midwives, etc.) to focus on suicide prevention concerns. Their next Meeting is on October 24th.

IV. Announcements

- A. Community Advocacy Institute** – Stephanie Joseph shared that she has been accepted into the Institute's training program. The curriculum will include hands-on opportunities to advocate for key issues. She will focus on mental health concerns.
- B. Glenmont Listening Session on Fentanyl** – Last month, Dr. Santiago participated in a listening session with neighbors in Glenmont who were concerned about the increased use of Fentanyl as well as trafficking in their neighborhood.
- C. Fentanyl Adolescent Program** – Sara shared that Avery Road as well as the Local Behavioral Health Agency (LBHA), have been working to provide treatment for youth under 18 who use Fentanyl.
- D. Diversion Center/Crisis Center Stabilization Room** – Dr. Santiago shared that the Stabilization Room at the Crisis Center is now open and seeing clients. He encouraged MHAC members to promote the Room and will share a flyer. With regard to the Diversion Center, there is now a stakeholder's group. He and Robin Yasinow (MHAC guest) noted that the group meets monthly and have already outlined key tasks in moving forward. Dr. Santiago shared that the County is also looking at development of a restoration center but that is still in the preliminary stages.
- E. COMAR Regs** – Dr. Santiago was familiar with the COMAR regulation concerns that had been expressed by Michelle Grisby-Hackett in earlier meetings. He said that it wasn't just concerns about crisis services but also the low rates for assisted living options, especially since there is an aging population. MHAC members offered to develop a letter of support if one is needed.

- VI. Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.