

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday October 13, 2022, 6:00- 9:00 pm Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Voting Members Present: D

Ex-Officio Members Present: H

Guests Present: G

Call to order. Laura Mitchell, Chair, called the Zoom videoconference meeting to order at 7:02pm. With 10 voting members, a quorum was present. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Discussion: Subcommittee affiliation for members, leadership opportunities/ subcommittee chairs

- **AODAAC will need as many voting members as possible at each meeting to ensure we have a quorum** of 9 voting members to vote on AODAAC decisions. There are several AODAAC members who have stepped back from AODAAC due to various time constraints.
- **All AODAAC voting members should begin thinking about what subcommittee they will be on this year:** Prevention, Treatment & Recovery, or Legislative.
- **Voting members willing to chair or co-chair any of the 3 subcommittees, please e-mail Laura.**
Laura@lauramitchell.org

Discussion: Priorities Letter for the current Fiscal Year (due October 1)

- 1 year ago, AODAAC brainstormed as many focus areas as possible on substance use treatment, prevention, anti-stigma, legislative, etc. topics and narrowed them down to ones that were most relevant to AODAAC's charge. The letter is submitted to the County Executive and County Council
- An overarching goal from last year that we did not address as much was looking at the need areas and gaps in the youth substance use treatment landscape in our county (and state).
- Today the group used a virtual sticky note platform (jamboard) to identify: new areas to address this year, what we accomplished last year, and what we should resume addressing this year. Everyone can then put a checkmark next to any ideas they agree with as a priority. ***See the bottom of this page for the finalized Priorities Letter based upon the exercise.**

Continued and New Business

- Laura mentioned a recent event as part of Montgomery Goes Purple (for substance use Recovery Month), during which public school superintendents and others receptively participated in Narcan Training.
- The COPE trailer is a great resource to educate families. We should continue to bring it to events as much as possible. Fill the form here to request it at an event: [Community Opioid Prevention Education Trailer](#)
- Another useful event was the in-person resource fair to connect community members to substance use prevention and treatment resources in the community at tables, during speeches, etc. Students helped with event setup for SSL hours and also received education in the process.
- AODAAC continues to work on stronger collaboration on shared legislative priorities during the January Legislative Session to avoid duplication. Collaboration so far has been with the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC), county employees, Kyle of the public schools, Celia of the Federation of Families etc. Laura hopes to pursue streamlined approval so written testimony can be submitted on time.
- Another ongoing goal is in-depth, effective substance use education in the new health curriculum for public school students.
- Continued work to expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the jails, in the health system, etc.

- There is continued pursuit of implementing the Shatterproof Stigma Index to measure stigma. One goal is to measure stigma among all staff throughout MCPS to see where the most training is needed.
- Anti-stigma: access to housing, workforce, etc. to sustain recovery is limited after a substance use charge.

Ex-Officio Reports (see full reports at the end of this document)

Dr. Rolando Santiago and Hardy Bennett (DHHS, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services)

- There is a community forum on October 6 in support of the proposed [Restoration Center project](#).
- Hardy gave an overview of issues around starting to initiate new inmates onto MAT in the jails, beyond just continuing MAT for people who were already prescribed it before jail. Finding a professional (psychiatric nurse practitioner or psychiatrist) willing to work in the jail and during COVID when hiring has been harder than ever and is the biggest challenge. There are custody and security issues too, requiring sublocade injections rather than oral MAT when diversion happens. The jails do not have loan forgiveness to offer new graduates to fill medical and therapist roles, but they are working with the state to try and address the hiring issues.
 - Peter Gaumond brought up Mobile Treatment Units as a possible solution. The Eastern Shore, Baltimore City, and Takoma Park are using these but Montgomery County cannot at this time. Dr. Santiago suggested follow-up on this. ***Nick Borowski offered to lend his expertise to support, based on his experience via his MAT treatment center.**

Celia Serkin (Mental Health Advisory Committee)

- Celia and Dr. Santiago brought up the MRSS crisis response model for youth and their families.
- Montgomery County Federation of Families has an 11 week virtual strengthening families program, 1 in English 1 in Spanish: an evidence-based practice for the full family to learn skills toward better youth decision-making and lower substance use/ mental health/ delinquency risk. Families get \$100 if they finish.

Dr. Kyle Potter (MCPS Public Schools)

- Dr. Potter discussed a MOU in progress for the Handle with Care partnership between the public schools and the police, to follow the current pilot program MOU. Within the program, police inform school staff to handle a student “with care” to mitigate trauma after a student was present at the scene of certain types of police calls. MCPS is partnering with police from Montgomery County, the Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg, the county Sheriff’s Office, and the National Capital Park for regions within Montgomery County. The goal is for the program to fully run by November 1, but will require training. Handle with Care is county-wide (not statewide currently).
- The schools also get notifications to follow up on situations when EveryMind has concern about a student.

Suzy Malagari (Dept. Of Corrections)

- Suzy is retiring at the end of September. An interim Warden has not yet been named.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

*****Additional Subcommittee Reports are at the end of this document.**

October 4, 2022

County Executive Marc Elrich

101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor

Rockville MD 20850

County Executive Marc Elrich:

It is my privilege to again chair the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council and to present our priorities for the year. Members identified focus areas aligned with our charge from the Montgomery County Charter, primarily prevention, advice, and outreach. Within those areas, members identified goals and strategies to utilize our collective experiences and expertise to reduce substance use, related illnesses and deaths.

Our primary focus this year is stigma reduction, detailed below, and to continue to quantify the need for substance use disorder treatment and recovery options for Montgomery County youth, and to support efforts to ensure those resources meet the need.

Prevention (includes harm reduction):

1. Reduce substance use disorder stigma throughout the county, guided by Shatterproof's [Change Your Language](#), Addiction Language Guide, [NIDA's Words Matter](#), and the American Psychological Association's [APA Writing Guide - Disabilities](#) to include the charter language, agency/department/BCC names, policy documents, and all communications. Continue to work with Shatterproof to measure and combat stigma in various professions such as prescribers and pharmacists, the legal community including law enforcement and courts, treatment, and education.
2. Continue to support and collaborate with the Prevention Alliance's Youth Ambassador Program in partnership with MCPS, school based wellbeing teams, and Montgomery Goes Purple.
3. Promote screening for substance use in pre-adolescents and teens by pediatricians & primary doctors beginning at age 9, in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation. Encourage physicians to prescribe naloxone in tandem with every opioid prescription, and to avoid prescribing opioids to anyone under 18.
4. Monitor the implementation of [Handle With Care](#) in partnership with MCPS, MCPD and other law enforcement agencies, as the program is implemented countywide. Explore a statewide bill for HWC to provide continuity and ease of reporting across agencies, including Maryland State Police, and include trauma informed training for first responders and school staff to ensure appropriate care for identified students.
5. Increase public awareness and education on acute cannabis overdose toxicity, edibles, "rainbow fentanyl", "Delta 8", flavored vapes and tobacco products, and other substances targeted at or attractive to youth.

Treatment and Recovery:

1. Expand harm reduction efforts including fentanyl test strip distribution, and syringe exchange with community-based wraparound services, and train business owners and staff to administer naloxone, and request replacements by EMS units who respond to the scene of an overdose.
2. Elevate the use of Peer Recovery Specialists and Family Support Specialists, including with MCPS students and families. Expand workforce development efforts to create a pipeline for recruitment, hiring, promotion, and mentoring for leadership of peers and professionals from diverse racial, ethnic, and other underrepresented communities in the field of substance use services in Montgomery County.
1. Support efforts to recruit a nurse practitioner with a background in substance use treatment to work at the detention center so that Medication Assisted Recovery can be initiated at the facility.
2. Identify pathways to provide Narcan training and supplies to the families of students who experience an overdose or are otherwise confirmed to be misusing opioids, and a partner to deliver diversion programs like SUPRE to students where indicated.
3. Improve access to, and acceptance of Medication Assisted Recovery programs in all settings.
4. Support the construction of the Restoration Center that will stabilize persons in crisis (e.g., detox) and provide diversion from jails and emergency rooms.
5. Expand Montgomery Goes Purple initiative to include more year-round campaigns with additional County partners, municipalities, organizations, and businesses, and expand education and prevention efforts within MCPS.

Legislative:

6. Support enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act in the county, state and nationally, including elimination of Non Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) and inadequate networks. Support including implementation and funding of the Consumer Health Access Program (CHAP), currently under study by order of the state legislature, to provide consumers one-stop, no wrong door access to advocates to help obtain insurance and treatment and ensure that mental health and substance use disorders are covered by insurers in accordance with federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and other applicable laws.
7. Expand the Screening and Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Correctional Settings to include state prisons.
8. Improve the effectiveness of the annual legislative retreat through collaboration with agencies and BCCs to identify and track legislation more efficiently and timely.

AODAAC appreciates the opportunity to share and discuss the priorities members have identified. We have forged a strong collaboration with the Mental Health Advisory Committee and we welcome additional collaborations with other county boards, committees, and commissions.

Sincerely,

Laura Mitchell, M.B.A. (She/Her)
AODAAC Chair