

Minutes Full Board UCAB Meeting (10/17/22)

❖ **Attendance**

Present: Wayne Jacas (Chair), Amanda Hunt Franklin (Vice Chair), Matilde Adu, Stephen Augustino Susan Baldeh, Christel Bivens, Tangela Nichols, Christopher O'Brien, Andrew Saundry, Kraig Walsleben, Paul Klee, and Revonne Johnson

Absent: Hassan Dixon, Mary Hoel, and Arlene Proebsting

❖ **Speaker**

Dr. Raymond Crowel (Director HHS)

❖ **Topic: Mental Health**

- During the Pandemic and afterwards, the mental health crisis increased. About 250-270 people seen per week for emergency care at hospitals due to mental health concerns.
- There was an increase in deaths due to overdose during the Pandemic and presently. This is partly due to isolation and boredom therefore causing prescription/drug abuse
- The suicide rate has gone up for similar reasons
- Grief and loss of loved ones is a major factor for depression and the rise of mental health concerns
- As it relates to students, there have been behavior concerns in schools especially in relation to violence. Increase in gun violence, altercations, fights in schools/communities, high youth suicide rate

❖ **Proposed Solutions**

- Working close with RSC with townhall meetings and outreach efforts
- Working with schools, libraries, recreation centers, and conflict resolution
- Increase number of case managers at Montgomery County Crisis Center and funding for wellness centers at all High Schools
- HHS has reached out to SON with working on a comprehensive program called Positive Youth Development for Kindergarten-21 years of age.
- Working closely with Police and training law enforcement on mental health concerns