

**Howard County  
Opioid Crisis Community Council  
July 7, 2021  
5:15-6:45pm  
VIA ZOOM – COVID-19**

**In Attendance:**

Jama Acuff, Barbara Allen, Mark Donovan, Sean Ford, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Kaymisha Knight, Mimi Mathews, Sarah McCoy, Debbie Nix, Ana Park, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Joan Webb Scornaienchi

Absent: Robin Bartko, Joanie Elder, Beth Harbison, Laura Torres, John Way

**Meeting called to order at 5:19 PM.**

Mimi moved And Cindy seconded to approve the June minutes. Minutes were approved.

**Announcements**

Debbie Nix announced National Night Out event. Scheduled for Tuesday, August 3rd. Health Department and peer counselors will man a table for Narcan training and harm reduction materials.

Sarah McCoy is the new OCCC member for grassroots, replacing Katie Dent.

Cindy reports that the new Circuit Court House opens on July 12th. States Attorney's Office is in the middle of moving their offices to the new building.

Roe's updates and announcements from the HD:

- **Difficult Conversations About Race: Part 3:** Friday, July 16, 2021; 12:00 pm (*rescheduled*). This virtual series is a response to the civil unrest of 2020 and beyond. Our presenters offer guidance and structure around conversations addressing racial injustice and confusion, as well as cultural competency, a critical topic that has emerged as more important than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you'll enjoy exploring how to have these conversations; how to include children in these conversations; and how to practice cultural competency and humility.
  - **REGISTRATION:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/difficult-conversations-about-race-a-discussion-series-tickets-150062834979>
- BBH is planning a trauma informed care training - date/time TBD
- BBH is planning a de-escalation of agitation training - 7/27 noon - virtual
- IOAD planning underway for 8/31
- COVID supplemental prevention funding awarded – in the process of planning and submitting the budget
- Crisis bed funding awarded for adults and youth – in the planning phase with BHA
- Hub/Spoke project development planning and creating promotional materials
- Submitting a proposal to MDH for peer expansion within OTPs
- Awarded funds for a Suicide Prevention Pilot opportunity. The BBH will seek to contract with CAMS-Care to train up to 10 clinicians in the CAMS-Care suicide prevention framework. This intervention will be comprised of short-term (12-sessions) intensive mental health support

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delivered by licensed mental health providers for the youth and adult population, specifically targeting individuals experiencing suicidal ideation and exhibiting self-harming behaviors.

#### **Other – Barbara Updates**

- Mimi had asked about the sign boards at the fire stations around the county. Were these signs going down? Barbara checked and these are not going away. Some fire stations are transitioning to electronic signage (such as Elkridge), so some signs may be
- OCCC just completed a grant review process for \$5+ million. Requests of \$14.3 million were received. Barbara will send out a list of awards when released.
- The General Assembly has extended Telehealth protections with the Protect Telehealth bill, Flyer to be sent out when completed.
- Barbara completed a MDH Trauma informed care training. She recommends looking up Dr. Gabor Mate's documentary, "The Wisdom of Trauma". Dr. Mate has run harm reduction and housing programs for over 25 years in Vancouver, Canada.
- Behavioral Health Administration is receiving over \$70 million for substance use disorders and mental health programs. MD has received \$12M from the Opioid Restitution Fund w/\$4 million designated for Stop Overdose Strategy (SOS) program. There is a list of how these funds can be allocated.

**International Overdose Awareness Day, IOAD**, will take place on August 31st, Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:30 PM and will be in person! St John's Episcopal Church, 9120 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21042. This event is held annually to honor those in recovery and those who have died due to substance use disorders. We are currently proposing to have no vendor tables with a reception from 6 to 7 and an extended program from 7:00 to 8:30 PM ending in a candlelight vigil. The event will take place inside of the church. Volunteers needed – raise your hands.

Teron suggested that we include education awareness to the community about the law enforcement assisted diversion program, LEAD. Debbie suggested some sort of an appreciation for first responders; Barbara suggested adding BHA and HCHD as a part of that appreciation. Volunteers - Cindy, Mimi, Jama and two folks from grassroots and of course several folks from the Howard County Health Department. Fire department - overdose response call may be shown by video – TBD. Music needed for the evening. Lots of opportunities to help – contact Barbara.

Barbara talked about the **Howard County Youth Behavioral Health Roadmap**. Presented at the year-end meeting of the HCPSS's Mental Health Community Advisory Council, this looked like something OCCC (and beyond) could collaborate with. The Roadmap was quite thorough except it was missing SUD information. Barbara spoke with Candace Ball, from the Office of Howard County Local Children's Board and learned they were glad to collaborate to insure a more complete Roadmap. Because this focuses on children's needs and there is a great need for behavioral health services for children/youth not only in Howard County but across the state, Barbara has been looking for other collaborators. To date, Ann Geddes and others have stepped up and are interested in this effort. Beyond HC, this effort is applicable to effort on the Lt. Gov. Rutherford's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health. The Youth and Family Committee is specifically targeted along with the lead of BHA's children's services – Dr. Maria Rodowski-Stancos. Barbara will arrange for a presentation in August.

Mimi offered to collaborate with Joan and Mark to reach out to Scout troops and other youth groups to provide educational efforts.

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Barbara talked about the upcoming discussions regarding collaboration/integration of the OCCC and ROSC. Leadership teams - OCCC members Barbara, Teron, Roe and Debbie N; ROSC members Carol Boyer, Shereen, Chris and Lisa. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to be held August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Committee Report Outs**

- We need members to serve on the Community Outreach committee. Ideas for persons we could ask to serve in this role?
- Ana shared that as a member of the Prevention committee, the My Life Foundation will be holding a Mental Health First Aid program in July.
- HCHD has the 211 pocket guides reordered and in-stock. Contact Kaymisha or Roe to arrange pickup of a quantity of these materials. kknights@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-6247

Sean H, Communication committee, asks what is our role moving forward? Also stated that the Communications Committee is disappointed about the Fire and Rescue and police no longer serving an active, monthly role on the committee. Debbie asks if the CoEx office has provided guidance/direction for the OCCC – we need to understand his expectations of this committee and the needs he sees in the County. Barbara spoke with Carl who said we may see Dr. Ball at the August or September meeting.

Barbara also mentioned that morale within the Police Department is a challenge these days. Jama asked if the FD/PD members could serve during regular work hours rather than have it be overtime. Barbara talked about how the committee needed to be accessible to many members who work during the day and would not be able to serve in that case. Mimi said that the FD/PD should be able to be involved, and she volunteered to help facilitate that communication. For background, Barbara clarified that the office of Emergency Management was involved initially with county staff assigned each meeting to take minutes and be a conduit to the County Executive. There is a sense that there is no leadership or validation coming from the county executive's office regarding opioids and substance use disorders. Is this a priority for this administration?

Jama asked – what is this council about? What are the priorities/direction? Is there a place for the Detention Center to be involved? Discussion ensued.

- Jama; Jackie Scott outreach case worker.
- Discussion about those coming out of detention needing a variety of supports including life skills, help with expungement, etc. Cindy talked about a national training – Life Skills course for participants of Drug Court.

Debbie moved and Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn @ 6:58pm

Submitted by Debbie Nix