

**Howard County
Opioid Crisis Community Council
August 4, 2021
5:15-6:45pm
VIA ZOOM – COVID-19**

In Attendance:

Jama Acuff, Barbara Allen, Candace Ball, Robin Bartko, Shereen Cabrera-Bentley, Corey Boyce, Mark Donovan, Sean Ford, Rich Gibson, Beth Harbison, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Kaymisha Knight, Claudia Lempges, Mimi Mathews, Sarah McCoy, Debbie Nix, Ana Park, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Laura Torres, Joan Webb Scornaienchi

Absent: Joanie Elder, John Way

Meeting begins 5:17 PM

Approval of the minutes: Rich Gibson made a motion to approve as amended, for spelling correction. Mark Donovan 2nd. Approved as amended.

Announcements - IOAD will be in person this year. Tuesday 8/31, 6 – 8:30 pm. Invited Speakers: CoEx Ball, Lt Gov. Rutherford, HoCo Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman. No provider tables this year, however a Resource Table is being provided for any who wish to share their information. There will be naloxone training, Peers, pop up vaccinations and harm reduction information. The focus is on Couples for speakers; 2 in recovery, 2 who've experienced loss to SUD.

Teron asked about dissemination of information during IOAD; LEAD program? Justine Muyu will be in attendance.

Barbara has extended an invitation to Theresa Thomas from Hilda's Place to join the OCCC.

Laura, HCGH new program to ER; if patient comes in with OD, they leave with naloxone and a script for a refill. Barbara reaffirmed progress is being made. Teron said that this is the type of info that needs to be shared at IOAD.

Presentation – Youth Roadmap

Candace Ball, Coordinator of Behavioral Health Partnerships at Howard County government in partnership with Howard County public school system and LHIC. Gave presentation to Howard County Youth Advisory Group in early 2021. Youth and family MH/BH resources.

Phase 1 includes the Roadmap, with physical copies and soon, electronic copies. Phase 2: will be web-based tools, will make available in multiple languages.

Cindy J. - requests training for Justices on available resources. Roe - suggests to contact Ben or Chris at HCHD. Barbara - DJS has funding for youth in that system; but services are only available to justice involved youth. Thanks to Candace et al for the work on the Roadmap!

Debbie N. reported National Night Out at Harper's Choice had over 200 participants. HCHD and Harm Reduction tables seemed busy. Kaymisha said 25 folks were trained on Naloxone and Peers reported 20 harm reduction kits were handed out.

James Lemon talked about the MH Community Advisory Council. This large council has representatives from the schools, community organizations, HCHD, HCGH and more. The focus is on behavioral health programs for school age children. They meet monthly during the school year. Many on the OCCC are also involved with the MHCAC.

Roe updates:

- 2 new info campaigns being launched- Talk to Your Doctor and Medication Safety.
- Trauma informed care trainings are currently being planned.
- Covid 19 funding
- Crisis bed funding
- Hub and Spoke funding
- Projects to expand Buprenorphine and Suboxone Prescribers.
- Suicide prevention funding and CAM's care; evidence based Collaborative Assessment Management of Suicidality.

Rich G - September 1, LEAD program launches. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. Also robust review of ALL programs in SA office.

Barbara talked about the funding coming into the state. Block grants of \$70 million, \$12 million from the Opioid Restitution fund. Workforce development challenges. \$\$ are flowing.

Debbie N. commented that YES, what we are collectively doing is working AND there is more to do. Shame reduction, employment after incarceration, MAT and employment. Opportunities to do more still exist.

Claudia Lempages, 17 years in recovery. She has seen changes and acknowledges more to be done.

Sarah McCoy - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, (CCBHC) Outpatient Mental Health Clinic certifications for Grassroots. Grassroots is working towards building a team and systems to allow for billable services. Planning to be part of GBRICS, integrating phone numbers to include 988, 211 plus+1, and suicide prevention numbers.

Collaborative work between ROSC and OCCC. Looking to eliminate duplication of effort, redundancies. Integrate programs, effort where possible. Claudia would like us to refocus on ROSC; community based, recovery oriented. 7 topic areas: Anti-stigma, Recovery capital, Harm reduction, Trauma informed care, Tobacco and gambling, MH/BH supports for veterans, MH/BH supports for youth.

Roe commented that collaboration is being planned. Survey both groups to see what's needed, where integration can reduce duplication.

No Committee report-outs. Teron talked about need to get the word out about LEAD program - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion. Rich G will be holding a LEAD press conference 9/1/2021. Needs the police department to buy-in to the program and refer offenders for this program to work.

Mark Donovan and Barbara spoke about the Preserve Telehealth bill. Still needing clarity on group therapy via telehealth. Meeting with the Secretary of Health on August 6th at 2:00 p.m. Clarification needed for OP/IOP being provided via telehealth. Uptick in participation tied to telehealth options. Adolescent programs are generally not well attended, even though there are many asking to have these programs available.

Discussion of restarting in-person meetings ensued. Informal poll of attendees, most still prefer virtual meetings for now. Cindy J: Looking ahead, new SA office and courthouse may have availability for meetings once back in person. Jama said there is some space at the Detention Center for up to 15 persons with inperson/remote capabilities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Debbie Nix

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