

**Howard County  
Opioid Community Crisis Council  
April 6, 2022, via Zoom**

Those present: Barbara Allen, Robin Bartko, Sarah Blankenship, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Corey Bryce, Mark Donovan, Beth Harbison, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, James Lemon, Claudia Lempges, Sara McCoy, Laura Torres, Hillary Young, John Way, Joan Webb

Not present: Teron, Debbie Nix and Kamisha

Barbara Allen called meeting to order at 5:15 pm

No changes to previous meeting minutes, Robin Bartko moved it, Laura Torres second it. Minutes approved as submitted.

#### Announcements

Roe:

The health department is...

- Jointly hosting a Suicide Prevention 5k Light the Night on 4-8-22
- Jointly hosting a Suicide Prevention Forum on 5-4-22
- Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS)
- Funds awarded for a Suicide Prevention Pilot
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Training is planned for Spring 2022
- Modifying the Suicide Prevention campaign “It’s OK to Ask” to convert to a suicide prevention campaign for across the life span
- The resource guide of services is being updated. Kayla Jenkins is new in that role, here email is [kjenkins@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kjenkins@howardcountymd.gov). They are working on an updated list of providers who have openings and wait lists. We will invite Kayla to our next meeting.

Barbara: Legislative Updates

- Good Samaritan Law – no changes due to concerns by the MD Attorney General’s office. Goal was to continue to build consistency in application across the MD jurisdictions.
- Dental Care Bill-under Medicaid passed; provides coverage for ages 19-65 for the first time in Maryland.
- 988 bill got funded at \$10.5 million; this provides for a trust fund for financial support. This is an initial funding effort; more will be needed over time.
- Provider Reimbursement Rates-approved for 7.25% increase
- Stop Act funding for more Naloxone approved (\$4M) for wider distribution to OPs, IOPs and homeless programs; MDH will provide at no cost.
- Cannabis – increased personal use to 1 ½ oz; decriminalizes paraphernalia.

- Name change from Marijuana to Cannabis and Substance Use Disorder instead of Substance Abuse across all bills.
- Funding for Youth Residential Treatment bill was changed to granting BHA to hire a consultant to do a needs assessment; cost to be \$500,000. Originally slated to create the gap where no residential treatment for youth exists in MD, instead the allocated funding goes to a study.

James LeMon: HCPSS

Thanked participants for coming to his meeting to improve prevention pathways for families who need the support the most

Beth Harbison – Committee Report:

- 250<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary for Old Ellicott City-spring and music fest, SOBAR will be there to represent nonalcoholic drink options
- Intervention Treatment & Recovery Committee plans... o Note name modification getting Grass Roots expanded to 24/7
- Streamline continuum of care
- per Laura Torres, mentioned that it is important to maximize the resources that are already available.
- There is a new “overit” app developed by a neuroscientist with addiction history. The app rewards participants with discounts when they are compliant with staying sober. Mark Donovan mentioned that rewards can be effective.

Barb Allen-more updates:

- Joe Adams shared his thoughts on Contingency Management. She will forward to Mark per his request.
- CHAP (Consumer Health Advisory Program ) is struggling its way through the legislative final days. Balance billing (parity) bill has passed and being signed by Governor.
- Lots of funding for behavioral health being put into bills by the Governor – source is budget surplus of over \$2B. Approximately \$210 million.
- It would be good to reach out to the Muslim and Jewish communities to see if there is interest in joining the OCCC.

Roe

There has been a resource table for harm reduction in the Columbia Mall. Kamisha and team and peers have been working it. It is available March thru June for 16 days. They have answered questions, do Narcan training and give out Narcan. They have been happy it is a reaching a diversified population that may be more difficult to reach.

Prevention Committee - no updates

Enforcement Committee: Fentanyl strips have been shared thanks to the health department  
 Communication Committee – has submitted their assignment for the revised Executive Order to the Council. Other business pending.

Theresa Thomas

Marriott has donated beds, lines, pillows, etc. to use once a residential property is secured. They are looking to expand housing targeting women with children.

Meeting was adjourned 6:20 pm

Respectfully submitted: Robin Bartko

-

APPROVED