

**Howard County
Opioid Community Crisis Council
May 4, 2022, via Zoom**

Those present: Barbara Allen, Candace Ball, Robin Bartko, Shereen Bentley, Sarah Blankenship, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Mark Donovan, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Kaymisha Knight, Sara McCoy, Ed McLean, Ana Park, Teron Powell, Laura Torres, Hillari Young, John Way, Joan Webb Scornaienchi

Absent: Corey Bryce, Joanie Elder, Beth HarbiNson, James LeMon, Claudia Lempges, Mimi Mathews

Meeting called to Order at 5:20pm.

Introductions

Cindy Johnson will be taking minutes until Debbie Nix can step back in.

Minutes approved with no revisions. Moved by Laura Torres, seconded by Mark Donovan who is in Venice.

-Sarah McCoy updates on Grassroots –

- EMS alternative destination protocol in place, up and running.
- Working on becoming accredited by October 1, and then licensure for becoming a MH crisis clinic.
- Continue current services which will eventually become billable services in their clinic.
- Now everything is free of charge. Once they are billable, they will still offer services to all.
- Implementing a new database that will help with information and accreditation.
- Grant to expand the crisis chat system through lifeline. Anticipate 6000 chats a month once 988 is up and running.
- Crisis calls are increasing dramatically, increased staffing levels; they are quickly growing out of their little space.
- Working on becoming a Level 1 and Level 2 WM for substance use treatment. Once in place, will offer withdrawal management for all substances.

Roe's report out 050422

- LHIC and BBH Jointly hosted a Suicide Prevention Forum on 5/4
- 5/19 press conference to roll out the modified "Ok to Ask" Suicide Prevention campaign to convert to a suicide prevention campaign for across the life span
- Contracted with Silverman Treatment Solution for peer support expansion within Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)
- Award funds for peer support expansion with Behavioral Health Crisis Centers, pending contract implementation.

HC DrugFree hosted a Drug Take Back Day in Howard County Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Disposal of unwanted or expired medications & sharps (needles, syringes & EpiPens) at the Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot with a convenient drive-thru collection.

HC Drug Free also invited adults to tour a trailer set up to simulate a young person's bedroom and bathroom. See places drugs are hidden in plain sight and learn other signs of drug use.

- Joan added that 100 people toured the trailer. Great educational experience and a good cross section of people who were able to tour the trailer. A lot of good feedback given of what was learned. Working to bring it back, at a minimum at the next Fall Take Back, but hopefully for other events. Volunteers included trained personnel for the sharps. Volunteers worked diligently throughout the Take Back Day. Had 40 bins of medication totaling 1,157 lbs., plus 21 bins of sharps.
- Laura – JHH had 20 collections throughout the State, including one here in Howard County. 66 cars came through. Collected 1,267lbs. Caught all different demographics. Also noticed that they collected pet medications.
- For both collections, all the trash was culled out. The weight is just the medications with minimal packaging.

Sarah Blakenship regarding new leadership on MCF. Krisit Green is the new CEO. In the next few months she will go County to County to meet everyone and learn about the different agencies in each County.

Edward McLean shared that the peers have been able to set up a space at Homewood School, so they can meet one-on-one or a group of 3-4 with the students. Still doing Narcan training at the Mall in Columbia.

Barbara sent out a summary of legislation that just passed. Constitutional amendment for legalization of cannabis in Maryland will be on the ballot in November. FYI: The coalitions in Maryland are working on questions to ask candidates who are running for elected positions. Number one question: What is your position on Behavioral Health?

Joan W-S reports that Mark Donovan and Shannon from Congruent partnered with HCDrugFree to present a program in play style at Centennial High School focused on pre-Prom topics and substance abuse/addiction. Kids were great at participating. Students gave very meaningful feedback after the program. Very impactful program. School counselors were present for students to contact after (or during) if needed. Very successful!

6:05 - Debbie is back and takes over minutes. Thank you to Cindy!

Discussion on sub-committee priorities and recommendations to be submitted to the COEX.

Business and Community Engagement committee has had no members, leadership for some time. The Communication committee will take up the issues from that committee and has renamed itself the Communications and Community Engagement committee. Subcommittee has met and distilled the many, many suggestions and needs into 4 main priority areas. Their report is ready for the final draft.

Intervention, Treatment and Recovery committee also has met to cull their ideas, comments and set priorities; they too have several priority areas. Their report is ready for the final draft.

Enforcement and Adjudication committee is currently meeting to cull their ideas, suggestions and will have info to Barbara by next week for the final draft. Teron suggests that all read the 2022 National Drug Control Strategy, released on 4/21/22, found [here](#) or using the link below.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/National-Drug-Control-2022Strategy.pdf>

Plan is to wrap up all info into a final draft, to be reviewed at our June 1 meeting. Look for info to be shared ahead of that date and be prepared to discuss and vote on this document to be sent to the County Executive.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Chat: OCCC May 4, 2022

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/08/nyregion/naloxone-vending-machines-nyc.html>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/National-Drug-Control-2022Strategy.pdf>

From Candace Ball to Everyone 06:43 PM

Some small updates to the Youth Behavioral Health Roadmap, more coming soon.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/local-childrens-board/youth-behavioral-health>

Super thankful to all the partners who helped!