

THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

September 17, 2019

Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Present:

Barbara Allen, Lori Brewster (**by phone**), Mary Bunch, Lisa A. Burgess, Kenneth Collins, Shayna Dee (**by phone**), Kathryn Dilley (**by phone**), The Hon. Addie Eckardt, Kate Farinholt, Kelsey Goering for Jonathan Martin (**by phone**), Lauren Grimes, Shannon Hall, Carlos Hardy, Dayna Harris, James Hedrick, Sharon M. Lipford, Dan Martin, Randy Nero (**by phone**), Luciene Parsley, Keisha Peterson (**by phone**), Keith Richardson (**by phone**), Jacob Salem, Sabrina Sepulveda (**by phone**), Jeffrey Sternlicht, Deneice Valentine (**by phone**), Ambrosia Watts, Tracey Webb (**by phone**), Anita Wells

Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Absent:

Makeitha Abdulbarr, Robert Anderson, Dori S. Bishop, Karyn M. Black, T-Kea Blackman, John-Pierre Cardenas, Jan A. Desper Peters, Lillian Donnard, Catherine Drake, Ann Geddes, Christina Halpin, Rosanne Hanratty, Joyce N. Harrison, Sylvia Lawson, Mariana Izraelson, The Hon. George Lipman, The Hon. Dana Moylan Wright, William Patten, Mary Pizzo, Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Dana Sauro, Mary C. Vaughan

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Staff Present:

Cynthia Petion, Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, Sarah Reiman, Tsegereda Assebe, Greta Carter, Aparna Nagaraju, Natalee Solomon, Brendan Welsh, Shenay Curry, Frank Dyson, Steven Whitefield, Kaylin McJilton

Guests:

Marianne Gibson, Opioid Operational Command Center
E. Lucille Robinson, Advocate Kent County
Diane Stollenwerk (**by phone**), President, StollenWerks
Colleen Nester, (**by phone**) Howard County Health Department
Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, (**by phone**) Howard County Health Department
Sharon MacDougall, On Our Own of Maryland
Mary Drexler, MD Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling
Annie Coble, Johns Hopkins
Amanda Fox, On Our Own of MD
Kimber Watts, Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Rose Regan, Chesapeake Voyagers/Healthy Tilghman
Joe Adams, MD-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
Digna Choud, Student Coppin
Laura Mueller, WIN Family Services
Julia Jerscheid, Mid-Shore Peer Support Specialist/Consumer Advocate
Brooks Robinson, Mid-Shore Consumer Advocate
Roxanne Kennedy, Beacon Health Options Maryland

Guests continued:

Brian Frazee, Maryland Hospital Association

Kelly Moshogianis, Anne Arundel County CSA

Cathy Howard, Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Catherine Gray, Anne Arundel County CSA

Kim Wireman, Maryland Addictions Directors Council

Jennifer Lowther

Arnold Santo

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair Dan Martin opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved by the Council members. The Minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) website at:

<https://bha.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Maryland-Behavioral-Health-Advisory-Council.aspx>
[The Council retreat, which was held in July, served as the July Council meeting.](#)

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. Lisa Burgess, Acting Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health/Executive Director (BHA)

Dr. Burgess provided an update on the Lieutenant Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health. The Commission is tasked with studying mental health in Maryland, including access and the link with mental health and substance use disorders. The Commission is required to submit recommendations for policy or legislation to advise the Governor on efforts to improve statewide mental health access. The Commission's term is meant to be a longer term effort to handle the complicated issues within our state related to behavioral health disorders. The Lieutenant Governor is expecting the Commission to last for at least four years. Four subcommittees were created to focus on the following areas: Finance and Funding, Crisis Services, Youth and Families, and Public Safety/Judicial System. The subcommittees meet and then feed information up to the larger body. In addition to the subcommittees, the Lt. Gov. also wants to hear from the community at large. The committee members have been traveling throughout the state and holding listening sessions with stakeholders and residents. Dr. Burgess encouraged Council members to forward any questions they may have to Greta Carter at BHA. Greta will work with Barbara Allen, the Co-Chair of BHAC, who sits on the Commission.

BHA Updates:

Dr. Burgess introduced the new Director of Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Services at BHA, Dr. Maria Rodowski-Stanco. Dr. Rodowski-Stanco comes from a history of work with youth and families and has worked at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Dan Martin welcomed Dr. Rodowski-Stanco and expressed the Council's pleasure with the position being filled after a long vacancy. He encouraged Dr. Rodowski to attend BHAC's subcommittee on Children, Young Adults and Families.

- The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists has an opening for an LCPC and anyone that is interested can contact Sarah Reiman or Greta Carter at BHA.
- BHAC vacancies: One Family Member and a Youth Member. The Delegate seat is also vacant, as Delegate Hayes is now a Senator. The Speaker has been made aware of the vacancy.
- Kim Wireman is the new representative from Maryland Addictions Council and Ambrosia Watts is the new representative from Medicaid.
- All committees will meet after the full Council meeting today except for the Criminal Justice Committee, which will not be meeting today.
- October 2: BHA's Annual Suicide Prevention Conference at Martin's West. Contact Greta Carter or Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin for more information.

- October 17th: BHA's 2nd Annual Clinical Intervention and Treatment Strategies Coordinating Care for Individuals Accessing Opioid and Residential Services Conference at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore.
- October 18 and 19: NAMI Annual Conference. Awards dinner will be on the 17th. This will be the first time that a Government agency will be receiving an award (Maryland Department of Corrections).
- October 26th: Maryland/DC Society of Addiction and Medicine Annual Conference
- BHA is organizing Cultural and Linguistic Competency in-person trainings and webinars. The first session of the in-person trainings was held on September 13th, at the Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore. The same training will be held in Annapolis on September 27. The second sessions of this training series will be held in Annapolis on October 4th, and in Baltimore on October 11th. Due to high demand, another full day training will be held on November 1st in Baltimore. The Webinars will be held on November 6, 13, and 20th. All of the trainings will be made available as online training modules on BHA's training website. Information will be provided to all local authorities, providers and other stakeholders once these trainings are available on BHA's training website.

BHAC PLANNING RETREAT

Dan Martin remarked on the success of the retreat which took place in July. He thanked the Council members for their participation and commented on the great turn out and productivity of the meeting. He thanked Diane Stollenwerk for facilitating the retreat and keeping the meeting on track. Co-Chair Barbara Allen stated how it was good to see Council members open up about their concerns. She also expressed how it was nice to have the smaller break out groups to discuss things and get questions answered. This provided an opportunity for members to gain clarity. It was a worthwhile event as many creative ideas, as well as concerns, were able to be shared.

SUMMARY OF RETREAT, Diane Stollenwerk, President, Stollenwerks

Diane Stollenwerk, facilitated the Council's retreat in July and produced a summary that included highlights of the retreat, results of the evaluations, and recommendations for next steps. Copies of the summary were provided for Council members.

Prior to the retreat, the Council Planning team developed a survey. Thirty (30) BHAC members completed the survey and the results helped to inform the agenda for the retreat. Of the activities to choose from on the survey, most (25 out of 30 respondents) chose "Developing Recommendations" as being of high value. Other suggestions included:

- "Identifying barriers",
- "Sharing information",
- "Consulting with agencies and organizations to address the barriers" , and
- "Helping to advocate for those recommendations.

Combining the content from the committee reports and the insight from survey results, the group was then able to brainstorm about what key questions should be asked about in regards to this process. Suggestions about potential BHAC activities for 2020 and beyond fell into about 5 areas:

- Impact of the BHAC,

- Role Clarity,
- Communicating and Outreach about BHAC,
- Improving understanding of the system, and
- BHAC Support- giving and receiving, both as a whole and on an individual level.

From these areas there were four that it was felt needed to be looked at a little deeper. Four small groups dove into these four areas in greater detail:

- Role Clarity,
- Points of Intersection that effect Behavioral Health,
- Best ways to promote and advocate recommendations that come out of BHAC, and
- Coordination and Collaboration between State and Local Advisory Councils.

In summary the following were identified as key action items for the Councils' focus in 2020:

- Annual Work Plans with small goals for each year,
- Defining BHAC as a resource,
- Promoting BHAC to member organizations and agencies as a resource,
- Collaborating and sharing information, data systems and databases to increase collaboration among agencies and organizations, and
- Coordinating with local advisory council.

DRAFT BHAC WORK PLAN, Sarah Reiman, Health Policy Analyst, Division of Planning, BHA.

As a result of the Council's work at the Retreat, Sarah Reiman drafted the BHAC Work Plan that includes a summary of discussions that informed the Work Plan. The Plan includes five goals:

- Goal 1: Clarifying BHAC's purpose, value and roles,
- Goal 2: Increasing awareness of BHAC as a vital resource,
- Goal 3: Increasing the impact of BHAC by creating a plan ensuring that Council meetings are informative and purposeful, and
- Goal 4: Improving collaboration among members.

The next steps would be to finalize the 2020 Workplan and to start implementation of the Workplan. Members were asked to submit their comments or feedback. Members can use this as an opportunity to discuss in their respective committees.

Thoughts/Comments:

- One member noted the importance of the Council having peer support to try to promote the Council, but in order for this to be effective, a simplified version of what the Council is all about is needed. It will be beneficial to utilize peers to get the word out because many people do not know what the Council is or why it exists.
- Another member offered ways in which she could contribute to the Council. This member is a Professor of Psychology at Morgan State University and would like to discern ways to utilize students who are interested in entering the behavioral health field or other state agencies or disciplines. She is very interested in brainstorming further. She also has extensive experience in using measures of effectiveness and has offered this as a way for her to contribute as well. The Council expressed that they still need one more youth member if she knows of any Morgan students that may be interested.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The draft of the Annual Report was sent out to members for review and comments. The report is due to BHA's Office of Government Affairs by Oct 4th. This office will hand off to the department for further review and process for submission to the General Assembly and the Governor's Office by December 31st.

It was recommended that everyone read the BHAC Annual Report. Understanding BHAC, the operation of the organization and what's in the statute, helps the Council proactively move forward and to implement the work plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee:

The Committee is aware that BHA is conducting CLC/CLAS trainings to prepare providers to use CLAS in their practice and for local authorities to include effective CLC strategies in their annual plans. Jacob Salem, the Co-Chair of the CLC Committee, will be attending the CLC training, which will take place in Annapolis on September 27th. Their first step is to promote providers to adopt the CLAS standards and to take them seriously. The Committee has about 15-20 active members, although not everyone attends every meeting. Some members attend by phone and some in person. The Committee is currently discussing their draft vision statement. Future discussions will focus on the Committee's responsibility in assisting BHA reviewing local plans to ensuring implementation of CLC/CLAS and raising awareness on CLC issues.

Questions/Comments:

Is there is an effort to align this with the CLC requirements that currently exist with accreditation programs that all the community providers are required to have? Yes, BHA is aligning these requirements and working with their accreditation team in doing so.

Criminal Justice/Forensics Committee:

There was no representative from this Committee at the meeting today.

Planning Committee:

The Committee will review sections of the planning document as well as Block Grant materials.

Children, Young Adults, and Families Committee:

The Committee continues to discuss the need for the diagnosis criteria to be loosened for young adults; the expansion of Crisis Services tailored to the needs of youth and families; the shortage of crisis and acute beds for youth, especially for youth with co-occurring autism and behavioral health needs; the shortage of substance use beds for youth and adolescence, and problems with the 1915-I waiver. At today's meeting they will be working on recommendations for the coming year.

Recovery Services and Supports Committee:

The Committee reports that there is a good balance of members but that they are always open to accept more. Their orientation has been on parity and integration issues. They have many questions on recovery housing and wish to broaden the conversation. They have also had discussion surrounding the expansion of wellness and recovery centers and have had a focus on the needs of seniors and older adults. They also collaborate often with the Children and Young Adults and Families Committee on various issues. Dr. Rodowski-Stanco, Director of CAYA, noted that ASAM 3.5 and 3.7 for Adolescent TAY didn't really take off as expected and that her Unit is looking into what the barriers and challenges were.

Prevention Committee:

Maryland's prevention activities have been reorganized under the departments Public Health Services and is no longer under BHA. However, membership from the department's Office of Population Health Improvement, which manages the Prevention programs and activities, continues to participate in the Council activities. The Prevention Unit that was previously under BHA has been restructured. This Committee is under review for ad hoc or standing status.

Questions/Comments:

Cynthia Petion noted that due to staffing shortages at BHA, staff support to all the Committees was not always possible. However, if there are questions or concerns that need to be addressed they can be sent to the Division of Planning staff and they would be able to acquire the key staff (e.g. there are key staff available to provide more info on Recovery Housing).

Co-Chair Election Plan

As stated in the Council by laws, two co-chairs shall be elected from among the full membership of the Council and shall serve for one two-year term. Dan Martin is finishing up his 4th year, therefore it is necessary to elect a new co-chair. The Council makes an attempt to have balanced representation of areas comprising the behavioral health system by having a co-chair that represents Mental Health (MH) and one that represents the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) arena. The Council would also like to try to stagger the co-chair positions so the current chair is serving alongside the newly elected chair in an effort to be able to provide mentorship and assistance with the transition.

The Officers appointed a Nominating Committee that convened a meeting to identify and recommend a slate for the next co-chair. The slate nominee was submitted for membership approval. Official voting will be held at the November meeting. The new co-chair will start in January 2020. Barbara Allen will stay on as co-chair for one year, with the Council actively looking to find a SUD representative to take her place after one year. Lauren Grimes was selected by the nominating committee to serve as the new co-chair and she has accepted the nomination.

Lauren Grimes works at On Our Own of Maryland (OOO). Her position entails policy work and training for behavioral health providers across the state and other related organizations. Lauren does a lot of liaison work between state and local administrations, including working with the leadership of the peer-run Wellness and Recovery Centers of Maryland. Lauren likes that there are so many representatives of different perspectives on the Council. In the coming year she would like to see the Council narrow down specific goals to about 4-5 main goals, focus on these goals and have the sub committees make recommendations that the Council can actively promote.

The next Meeting of the Council is on November 19, 2019. Meeting adjourned.