



State of Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Larry Hogan, Governor – Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor – Robert R. Neall, Secretary, MDH

THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 15, 2018

Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Present:

Barbara L. Allen, Robert Anderson for Michael Ito, Karyn M. Black, Lori Brewster, Mary Bunch, Annie Coble for Elaine Hall, Lillian Donnard (**by phone**), Michele Eberle (**by phone**), The Hon. Addie Eckardt (**by phone**), Stevanne Ellis, Kate Farinholt (**by phone**), Ann Geddes, Lauren Grimes (**by phone**), Shannon Hall, Carlos Hardy, Dayna Harris, James Hedrick, Sharon M. Lipford, Theresa Lord (**by phone**), Dan Martin, Dennis L. McDowell, Nick Napolitano for Jonathan Martin (**by phone**), The Hon. Dana Moylan Wright, Luciene Parsley, Mary Pizzo, Charles Reifsnider, Keith Richardson (**by phone**), Kirsten Robb-McGrath Jacob Salem for Kelby Brick, Catherine Simmons-Jones (**by phone**), Jeffrey Sternlicht, Tracey Webb (**by phone**), Anita Wells, John Winslow

Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Absent:

Makeitha Abdulbarr, Barbara J. Bazron, Dori S. Bishop, Kenneth Collins, Jan A. Desper Peters, Catherine Drake, Robert Findling, Christina Halpin, Virginia Harrison, The Hon. Antonio Hayes, Sylvia Lawson, The Hon. George Lipman, Stephen T. Moyer, Kathleen O'Brien, William Patten, Keisha Peterson, Clay Stamp

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Staff Present:

Cynthia Petion, Marian Bland, Richard Ortega, Hilary Phillips, Thomas Merrick, Sarah Reiman, Judith Leiman, Tsegereda Assebe, Eleanor Dayhoff Brannigan, Lori Mannino, Terry Fisher, Greta Carter

c/o Behavioral Health Administration

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Guests and Others:

Julia Jerscheid, Mid-Shore Consumer Advocate;
Cathy Howard, Anne Arundel County Health Department, Behavioral Health (**by phone**);
Kimber Watts, Office of the Public Defender;
Howard Ashkin, Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD);
Victoria Scofield, Stepping Stones Recovery Houses;
Laura Mueller, WIN Team, LLC;
Virginia Spence, Recovery Peer Specialist, Caroline County Health Department (**by phone**);
Diana Seybolt, Systems Evaluation Center, University of Maryland;
Anthony Chico, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC);
Joann Ioannou, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC);
Brooks Robinson, Mid-Shore Consumer Advocate;
Michelle Early, Asian American Center of Frederick;
Dalila Ordonez, Asian American Center of Frederick;
Sharon MacDougall, On Our Own of Maryland, Board of Directors;
Denise Cushaney, Netsmart;
Robin Meyer, Harford County Public Schools;
Catherine Gray, Anne Arundel County CSA;
Rianna Matthews-Brown, Johns Hopkins;
Imade Altena, Mental Health Association of Maryland (**by phone**);
Mike Massuli

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-chairs Barbara Allen and Dan Martin opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. Members on the phones and guests introduced themselves. The minutes of the March 20th meeting were reviewed and approved. 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>

Barbara drew Council members' attention to the critical work done in behavioral health, as well as the challenges that impact the system, consumers and families. She asked the Council to take a moment to reflect on the individuals who have been impacted by behavioral health problems, including those who lost loved ones to overdose and other mental health challenges, and those that are in recovery. She also reminded the Council to thank "yourselves" and others for the work done to help others. It matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Membership updates:

- Dan Martin announced the Council's recruitment efforts to fill consumer and youth vacancies/seats. Two people have applied for these positions. There are also several others interested in appointments on the Council when seats open up in September. The Governor Appointee seats will expire September 30th. The Executive Committee of the Council will meet afterwards to talk about the Governor Appointee seats and Co-Chair elections for the full Council. The Committee will also discuss the recruitment efforts and the process for filling the vacancies.

Other Announcements:

- The Howard County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) held their first annual Homerun for Recovery Softball Tournament on May 5, 2018, where recovery and agency teams went to bat to promote awareness of addiction, with a goal of ending stigma surrounding the disease.
- BHA Office of Planning announced that its annual Cultural Competence Conference will take place on Friday, June 29th, 2018 and that registration information will be forthcoming by email. Please refer to the *Save the Date* flyer.
- The National Council held its annual Conference and Hill Day in Washington D.C. Hill Day gathers hundreds of behavioral health providers, consumers, advocates and community stakeholders for participation in sessions, webinars, and workshops on federal behavioral health policy. After the sessions, participants take their message and advocacy for better resources to Capitol Hill. Each state has a State Captain. The Maryland State Captain as well as representatives from the Maryland BH community participated in the April 2018 BH National Council Conference and Hill Day.
- The Mid-Shore Going Purple Initiative. Talbot County, joined by Dorchester, Kent, Caroline and Queen Anne's counties, will turn the area purple to bring awareness to fight the State's opioid epidemic/crisis. The *Project Purple Initiative* also known as *The Herren Project* is an initiative launched to break the stigma of addiction, bring awareness to the dangers of substance abuse and encourage positive decision making to navigate life's challenges. Safe stations are also being set up.

- Tom Merrick, Deputy Director, Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Services, announced his retirement at the end of June and that this is his last Council meeting. The Council thanked him for his service and extended their well wishes to him.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Cynthia Petion, Deputy Director, System Management, Behavioral Health Administration

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) – Updates

Cynthia presented BHA's report on behalf of Dr. Barbara Bazron, Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health/Executive Director, Behavioral Health Administration, who was attending the annual meeting of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). Cynthia reminded the Council that May is mental health month and commended all the work that has been done in our communities and programs to address behavioral health needs.

1. Consumer Perception of Care Survey 2017

Ms. Petion announced that the results of Maryland's Public Behavioral Health System's (PBHS) *Consumer Perception of Care Survey 2017* were released and available for review. Distributions include Consumer Perception of Care summaries and pamphlets on the survey results for adults (Red) and for children (Blue). The pamphlets summarize statewide survey conducted with adult consumers and families of children to assess satisfaction with and outcomes of services provided to consumers. Overall the survey results are favorable of the PBHS. She urged everyone to review the information. BHA's Director of Applied Research and Evaluation will elaborate on the findings of the survey results at a future BHAC meeting.

2. Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program

During the 2018 legislative session, two bills were passed: HB1092 and SB703 that establish the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program. This program provides funds to local jurisdictions to establish and expand behavioral health crisis response systems and services throughout the State. BHA will be working with the Department to develop a work group and a work plan to start the planning process for the grant. The Working Group will be comprised of BHAC's members and other stakeholders. Information regarding the planning process will be forthcoming. These bills are a result of the BHAC's charge through SB551, which required the development of a strategic plan for ensuring that clinical crisis walk-in services and mobile crisis teams are available statewide, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. Ms. Petion and Dan Martin commended the Advisory Council and the Steering Committee's accomplishments.

3. Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG)

Maryland's FY 18 MHBG allocation increased from \$9M to \$11M. All states are required to set aside 10% of their allocation for First Episode Psychosis. Planning efforts are underway for the use of the additional MHBG funding. Considerations may include initiatives to support recommendations from the Crisis Services Strategic Plan as well as efforts to further enhance recovery support services. Maryland's allotment for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) remains at \$34 million.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Challenges faced by Hospitals' Emergency Departments in addressing the needs of behavioral health patients

Dr. Jeffrey Sternlicht, Chairman of Emergency Medicine (EM) of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) was joined by his colleagues Dr. JoAnn Ioannou, Senior Vice-President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer at GBMC and Dr. Anthony Chico, Medical Director of Emergency Department (ED) Psychiatry. They were also joined by Ms. Norah Hogan, Vice President of the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA). The group presented on the challenges faced by community EDs, particularly related to the treatment of behavioral health (BH) patients. Some of the major areas discussed were:

- volume of BH patients seen in the ED;
- average ED diversion and wait time of BH patients due to the ED's lack of capacity to triage and refer them quickly to appropriate crisis services;
- average length of stay of BH patients in ED;
- ED's staffing concerns; and
- need to further develop/increase community-based services where to direct BH patients, including children, once they leave the ED.

Ms. Hogan indicated that MHA is collecting and analyzing data to identify factors contributing to ED diversions and wait times such as Maryland's BH crisis, Medicaid expansion and nursing shortage. The data will inform policy measures to:

- make ED care more efficient in addressing the needs of BH patients;
- reduce overcrowding of EDs; and
- work with other stakeholders to address the increase in ED diversions and wait times.

In closing, Dan Martin thanked the team for their presentation and highlighted the need for greater collaboration between hospitals and community providers to identify solutions to the issues raised by the GBMC/MHA group. A comment was also made regarding the need to discuss the issue of stigma that BH patients face when they go to EDs, its impact on their recovery and wellbeing as well as the role of EDs and community BH providers in addressing this issue.

2. BHA's Systems Management Integration Plan

Cynthia Petion introduced Ms. Diane Stollenwerk, Maryland's Consultant for the Local Systems Management Integration Plan. Ms. Stollenwerk gave a brief overview of the Integration Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance and support to Maryland's local jurisdictions to achieve full integration of systems management for behavioral health throughout the State. Movement toward greater integration has been taking place in all local jurisdictions, and within BHA.

Ms. Stollenwerk indicated that plan lays out a roadmap with pathways and phases, including:

- the implementation of a "*Learning Community*," which will help local jurisdictions learn from peers and other experts and support their progress toward full systems management integration; and
- self-assessment tools, which will help local jurisdictions assess their own level of integration and develop a plan to further integrate their local systems management.

The plan was developed in collaboration with local and statewide stakeholders and established three phases.

Phase 1 (Summer to Fall 2017):

- Baseline analysis and report to the General Assembly.

Phase 2 (Fall 2017 to Spring 2018):

- Develop overall plan to support local integration.

Phase 3 (Spring 2018 to Summer 2022):

- Implement plan: activities at BHA and local levels.

Local jurisdictions are at different levels of this integration process and it will take few years to effect full systems management integration both at the state and local levels.

3. Legislative Updates

Kim Jones, Director, Government Affairs and Communication, BHA, updated the Council on decisions taken by the Maryland General Assembly during its 2018 annual legislative session on those Senate and House bills related to BHA's priority areas of work. The following bills passed:

- **SB703** - establishes the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program to provide funds to local jurisdictions to establish and expand community behavioral health crisis response systems.
- **HB202** - if a defendant is found by the court system to be incompetent or not criminally responsible due to mental illness, this bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to evaluate the defendant, develop a treatment plan and make a determination, within 48 hours, as to whether the defendant is a danger to self or others under certain circumstances. The bill also requires that a review panel be convened within 9 days if a patient refuses medication for 72 hours.
- **SB864** - requires a health care provider to disclose certain medical and legal records, without the authorization of a defendant, to a public defender who states in writing

- that the Office of the Public Defender represents the individual. The bill also requires that the records be provided within 24 hours of the request.
- **SB947** - prohibits a hearing officer from ordering the release of an individual who meets the requirements for involuntary admission under a certain provision of law on the grounds that the individual was kept at an emergency facility for more than 30 hours.
 - **HB922** - requires the Maryland Department of Health, on or before December 1, 2018, to identify a method for establishing a tip line through which a person may report an individual suspected of prescribing medication or overprescribing medication in violation of certain provisions of law.
 - **SB13** - requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with interested stakeholders, to assess the benefits and feasibility of developing an electronic prescription record (EPR) system to allow health care providers to access a patient's prescription medication history. The bill also requires the Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2020.
 - **HB517** - exempts a prescriber from being required to request certain data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) if the opioid or benzodiazepine is prescribed or dispensed to an individual to treat or prevent acute pain for not more than 14 days following any surgical procedure.

THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (BHAC) COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee - Co-Chair: Allysa Dittmar

- No updates.

Criminal Justice/Forensics Committee – Co-Chairs: Kathleen O'Brien and George Lipman

- No updates.

Planning Committee – Co-Chairs: Doris Bishop and Dennis McDowell

- The Planning Committee reviewed FY 2018-2019 State Behavioral Health Plan at its last meeting. The Committee will be reviewing the behavioral health planning cycle timelines with BHA and the second update of the State Behavioral Health Plan at its next meeting.

Prevention Committee – Co Chairs: Lori Brewster and Sharon Lipford

- No updates.

Lifespan Committee I – Co-Chairs: Ann Geddes and Mary Bunch

- The Committee has continued its work at looking into different robust services and models for the youth as an alternative to emergency department usage. One of these models is the Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery program (StarkMHAR), which is a model used by Stark County, Ohio, to address the needs of youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disabilities.

Lifespan Committee II – Co-Chairs: Barbara Allen and John Winslow

- There was enough consensus to introduce a name change of the Committee from *Lifespan II* to *Recovery Services and Support Committee*. The Committee is now in the formal process of requesting this name change.
- Additionally, John Winslow, Co-Chair of the Committee will be resigning from the Council and moving to Florida. The Council/Committee acknowledged his contribution to the Council and Committee and extended their well wishes to him.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – Co-Chair Barbara Allen

The next Meeting of the Council is on July 17th, 2018.

Meeting adjourned.