



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van T. Mitchell, Secretary

## MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

July 21, 2015

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** Sarah Burns, Chair; M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Mike Finkle, Joshana Goga (by phone), Dennis McDowell, Joanne Meekins (by phone), Livia Pazourek

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Gerald Beemer, Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Edwin C. Oliver, Robert M. Pender, Charles Reifsnider, John Scharf, Anita Solomon, John Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Robert Anderson, Karyn M. Black, Naomi Booker, Laura Cain, Chicquita Crawford (by phone), Herb Cromwell, Kate Farinholt, Rebecca Frechard (by-phone), Ann Geddes, Dayna Harris, Julie Jerscheid, Sharon Lipford, Dan Martin, Cynthia Petion, Michelle Stewart, Kathleen Ward, Phoenix Woody

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Anne Blackfield, Michael Bluestone, Jan Desper Peters, Nancy Feeley, Vira Froehlinger, A. Scott Gibson, Frank Kolb, Michael Lang, George Lipman, Jacqueline Powell, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Crista Taylor

**BHA Staff Present:** Erik Roskes, Rachael Faulkner, Robin Poponne, Hilary Phillips, Soula Lambropoulos, Darren McGregor, Ardenia Holland, Lori Mannino

### **Guests and Others:**

Jessica Honke, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland  
Nick Napolitano, Maryland Department of Budget and Management  
Jacqueline Pettis, ValueOptions@Maryland  
Jeanne Cooper, State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council  
Lauren Grimes, On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.  
Gray Barton, State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council  
Martha Danner, State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council  
Lori Rugle, Maryland Center on Problem Gambling

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c/o Behavioral Health Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473  
TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

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Lori Brewster (by phone), State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council  
Tammi Griffin, (by phone)

**INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice Chair, Sue Diehl. Attendees introduced themselves. The draft minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting were approved. Please note that the approved minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) Web site at <http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/>. The Maryland Council's Web page on BHA's Web site is listed on the homepage under "Welcome to the Behavioral Health Administration".

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Cynthia Petion, announced that the FY 2016 Behavioral Health Plan has been completed, was electronically disseminated, and soon will be available on-line at the BHA Web site posted under Behavioral Health Plans. Ms. Petion thanked all who participated in the Planning Committee meeting, which took place on June 25, 2015, to review the draft FY 2016 Behavioral Health Plan. Present at the meeting were Phoenix Woody, Robert Anderson, Anita Solomon, Julie Jerscheid, Dennis McDowell, Dan Martin, Gray Barton, and Chiquita Crawford (by phone). Additionally, Lynne Albizo sent comments and recommendations to further enhance the development of strategies for substance-related disorders. The reviewers felt it was a good plan, reader friendly and inclusive of areas of mental health, addictions, and substance-related disorders although more was needed. Most comments and suggestions for improvement - including adding initiatives for overdose prevention, addiction disorders, training and treatment - were incorporated into the Plan. This Plan informs other federal, state, and local planning efforts. We thank all of the members and stakeholders who contributed to the development of this plan.
- Al Zachik, M.D., is the new Acting Executive Director of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Tom Merrick has been appointed as the Acting Deputy Director of Children's Services, BHA, filling the position vacated by Dr. Zachik.
- Brandee Izquierdo-Johnson, BHA Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) announced collaborative efforts with the Peer Integrated Care Advisory Council (PICAC) (comprised of individuals with mental health, substance-related, and co-occurring disorders) through various projects: 1 ) A White Paper will be written based on site visits and feedback from individuals with behavioral health disorders in various settings and geographical areas of the state, what behavioral health integration looks like from the consumer/participant perspective; 2 ) train-the-trainer and facilitated trainings will be implemented in Maryland on Intentional Peer Support (an approach that focuses on proactive communications and relationships rather than merely reducing symptomology); 3 ) training peer support/recovery support specialists to serve as peer supervisors for those working with veterans and also a pilot project to train peers to work with individuals with forensic backgrounds; and 4 ) the continuation, this fall, of the Leadership Empowerment and Advocacy Project (LEAP) which provides training to consumers to learn leadership and advocacy skills that lead to involvement in policy, planning, and decision-making in the behavioral health system across the state.
- Jackie Pettis informed the Council that ValueOptions, the administrative services organization (ASO) for DHMH's Maryland Medicaid and Behavioral Health Administration, has merged with Beacon Health Options. This is not expected to affect

the current contract with ValueOptions. A new Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) participants' handbook will be available soon.

- Dayna Harris, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), announced the availability of funds to finance group homes and outreach by some mortgage lenders to facilitate this. Regulations on Group Homes are very specific and non-profits are not always as knowledgeable about the standards, needs, and eligibility requirements. Ms. Harris would like to outreach to non-profits, core service agencies, other providers who may be interested in developing group homes and wishes to collaborate with BHA to increase the knowledge of the appropriate COMAR regulations. Russell Springham, Housing Coordinator, BHA, will consult with her and explore possibilities.
- Sharon Lipford announced that she has accepted a position as the new Executive Director of Healthy Harford, the Healthy Communities Initiative of Harford County. A non-profit 501c3, Healthy Harford is a coalition of local government agencies, businesses, non-profits, and citizens dedicated to improving the health of Harford County residents.
- Chiquita Crawford reported that she participated in a forum and learned that the Baltimore City Health Department will be leading trainings on trauma-informed-care. The trainings will include partnerships with law-enforcement and first responders and other service providers in behavioral health agencies. Additionally, Ms. Crawford has developed a Web site for the Baltimore City Public School's Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC). Please visit at [www.baltimore-city-secac.weebly.com](http://www.baltimore-city-secac.weebly.com) .
- Kate Farinholt, NAMI MD, has been participating in several projects relating to trauma: The Pediatric Integrated Care Learning Collaborative (PICC), a national SAMHSA-funded project working with teams from across the continent to integrate pediatric and behavioral health care to improve early intervention and treatment for trauma in children and families. This project is currently recruiting Maryland sites. Additionally, Ms. Farinholt is gathering information about existing trauma-informed projects in Maryland and would welcome information and feedback from interested parties. Darren McGregor, BHA, who oversees Trauma-Informed-Care training efforts, will follow-up with additional information. Please contact Ms. Farinholt with any information or ideas for growing this project at [kfarinholt@namimd.org](mailto:kfarinholt@namimd.org) .
- NAMI MD will hold its Annual Conference on October 16-17 at the Conference Center at Sheppard-Pratt in Towson. They invite individuals with mental illness, families, faith leaders, community members, students, health care providers and criminal justice professionals to register at [http://namimd.org/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://namimd.org/calendar_of_events) .
- Ms. Farinholt also announced that the Mental Health Channel (MHC) is a channel similar to what one might see on cable, but on the Web that creates informative programming, commercial free, to help all viewers improve their mental health. MHC is soliciting input on topics. So far there are plans to feature issues on diversity, crisis intervention training, and trauma-informed-care. MHC will participate in a plenary at NAMI MD's Conference. Please visit their Web site at <http://mentalhealthchannel.tv> .

- Julie Jerscheid announced that a member of the Mid-Shore Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee has established a Facebook page featuring issues on widows/widowers and mothers with post-delivery challenges.
- Dan Martin, MHAMD, announced that MHAMD, in collaboration with national partners will host, *BrainFutures 2015: Exploring New Frontiers to Improve Brain Health & Optimize the Mind's Potential* on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Annapolis. This Mid-Atlantic Region conference will explore breakthroughs in understanding of the brain that are fundamentally altering care for behavioral health conditions, benefitting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders, as well as those seeking to optimize brain functioning. Leading clinicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders from a wide variety of disciplines will provide up-to-the-minute insight into the new developments in behavioral health technology, treatment, support, and self-care. The latest technologies will be available with hands-on exploration. For more information contact Lea Ann Browning-McNee at [lbmcnee@mhamd.org](mailto:lbmcnee@mhamd.org) or call 443-901-1550 X209.
- Judge Lipman informed the group that a bipartisan, interbranch Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council has been established by Maryland lawmakers, in June 2015, to assess the state's corrections system and find data-driven ways to improve public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control the rising cost of corrections spending. This coordinating council, with technical assistance from the Pew Charitable Trusts, will conduct a rigorous data review and develop policy recommendations for consideration during the 2016 legislative session. At the moment, DHMH/BHA has not been invited to participate. Judge Lipman has held discussions with key members of the coordinating council, and the Pew Charitable trust, advocating for DHMH/BHA to be involved and believes this will lead to future inclusion.
- The Maryland Rehabilitation Association and MSDE Division of Rehabilitation Services will hold its conference, Embracing Change and Empowering Abilities, on October 29-30, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland. The organization is putting out a call for presentations. Please visit the Web site at <http://dors.maryland.gov>.
- The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health (MCF) will hold its annual conference on Saturday, September 26, from 9-3 at the BWI Hilton in Linthicum. Connections is a conference for families caring for a child or adolescent with behavioral health needs. This is an opportunity to learn from experts, have access to resources, and connect with others for support. For more information and registration, please visit MCF Web site at [www.mdcoalition.org](http://www.mdcoalition.org).

**THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

BHA's Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Facilities, Mary Sheperd provided the following Report on State Hospitals:

Presently, BHA has oversight for five adult facilities – Spring Grove Hospital Center, Springfield Hospital Center, Thomas B. Finan Hospital Center, Eastern Shore Hospital Center, Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center – and two Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents (RICAs) – John L. Gildner and RICA Baltimore. All hospitals are accredited at this time with two re-accreditation reviews pending. Additionally, the Consumer Quality Team (CQT) conducted site visits and interviews with patients at the facilities and reported positive feedback during the first quarter of this year.

Additionally, BHA continues to serve 29 individuals with developmental disabilities in need of total care. BHA has been working with DDA to transfer these individuals to residential treatment or community residence under the DDA system of care. Ten individuals have recently been transferred.

The state facilities currently serve 1,019 adult and 68 adolescents. All facilities remain filled to capacity or above. In FY 2015, the number of adult admissions (865) outnumbered the number of adult discharges (854).

**Facilities' Personnel Updates**

John Cullen has recently been hired as CEO for the Finan Hospital Center. Dr. David Helsel, current CEO for Spring Grove and Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Centers, is retiring and the hiring process is underway for his replacement. Recruitment for a CEO for RICA Baltimore is also in process.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS/UPDATES:**

In response to an inquiry, the letter of support, written on behalf of the Joint Council, for DHMH's Planning Grant to develop certified community-based centers and a letter endorsing a peer support training grant have both been submitted.

Robin Poponne announced that the due date for applications for membership in the new Behavioral Health Advisory Council has been extended to August 14. Also, help is needed to find applicants for the categories of academic/research professionals, parent of a young child with behavioral health disorder, and a youth with a behavioral health disorder between the ages of 16-25 years of age. Robin Poponne may be contacted with referrals at [robin.poponne@maryland.gov](mailto:robin.poponne@maryland.gov) or Kim Bennardi, DHMH Office of Appointments at [kim.bennardi@maryland.gov](mailto:kim.bennardi@maryland.gov) .

**Discussion**

Chiquita Crawford brought up the concern that she has encountered many young men in her neighborhood who have, due to various life circumstances, dropped out of school and also are unemployed. They have shown a willingness to make social connections but have no real resources except those that require them to start from square one for attainment of any type education. Ms. Crawford was seeking guidance on resources that she may use to further support these youth. One suggestion made was use of the “One Stop Career Centers”, located in all jurisdictions across the state.

The meeting was adjourned.