

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday March 10, 2022, 7:00- 9:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Voting Members Present: Denyse Dillon, Cristina Rabadan, Margaret Mattson, Zayn Bandukwalla, Laura Mitchell, Nick Borowski, Malliga Iyer, Elyse Grossman, Elizabeth Leek, Evelyn Saim-Lobos, Valerie Adelson, Hannah Sheklow, Doreen Rubin, Ed Bunny Rich

Ex-Officio Members Present: Corey Berman, Gabriela Reynolds, Dr. Rolando Santiago, Sara Rose, Victoria Virador, Lt. Brent Kearney, Celia Serkin, Suzy Malagari, Ben Stevenson II, Amy Samman, Hardy Bennett

Guests Present: Anne Ellis (Narcotics Anonymous), Betty Djawdan (Arise & Flourish), Sami Sapkota (Asian American Health Initiative), Rachael Cooper (Shatterproof), Barbara Allen (Howard County Opioid Crisis Community Council), Sarah Frazell (Primary Care Coalition), Pat Madge Mosby (Montgomery County Federation of Families), Libby Nealis (MHAC), Lynne Harris (Board of Education), Karla Martinez Palma (DHHS), David Hill (DHHS), Gelareh Bassiry (Arise & Flourish), Marielsa Bernard (Maryland Circuit Court), Beth Shuman Office of County Councilman Gabe Albornoz), Michael Diehl (Brothers in Grief and Hope), Susan Kerin (MHAC), kb (unknown), Saru N. (unknown), Sharon View (unknown), Amy (unknown), Karala (unknown)

Call to order. Laura Mitchell, Chair, called the Zoom videoconference meeting to order at 7:05pm. With 14 voting members, a quorum was present. AODAAC voting members approved drafted February minutes.

Shatterproof: A Movement to End Addiction Stigma

e-mail: rcooper@shatterproof.org

Rachael Cooper, Associate Director, National Stigma Initiative, Shatterproof

- Shatterproof is a national nonprofit focused on reversing the course of the opioid crisis in America. It was founded by Gary Mandel after losing his son to a fatal overdose in 2011. AODAAC member Cristina Rabadan began her involvement in AODAAC after losing her own son in 2019. Recently they developed and released a first-of-its kind tool in late 2021 to address addiction stigma.
- Shatterproof has 3-4 main focus areas: increase access to addiction treatment, policy work, community engagement work. Reach out to Rachael or Cristina for resources on these topics.
- Stigma is hard to measure, define what it looks like, and address in the field. The hope is that education and awareness-building reduces stigma, but there haven't been studies to show it works, which is why the Shatterproof Addiction Stigma Index (SASI) was created.
- Studies show the use of words like abuser and addict make the general public and clinicians more likely to believe an individual deserves punishment rather than treatment.
- 7 of the 9 key drivers of the opioid epidemic are driven by pervasive stigma per a literature review by Shatterproof when this project launched in February 2020. Stigma leads to social isolation, not seeking help for addiction, healthcare coverage and reimbursement disparities, non-evidence-based treatment, criminalization of people with a substance use disorder (SUD), and societal and structural barriers to recovery.
- Shatterproof's addiction stigma work is with communities, government, employers, healthcare professionals, media/entertainment, and the carceral system. Most of the work so far has been in the state-based work in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, but their goal is to start working more locally with local governments and communities. They look at how to reduce addiction stigma and what works, bring leading voices together to discuss what theories of change look like, how to get at audiences

and what needs exist. A lot of it emerges from events like the Stigma of Addiction Summit. Rachael will share details about the event with AODAAC in the next few months. They are also doing pilot programs in healthcare systems on how to reduce stigma at the intersection of healthcare, addiction stigma, and health equity.

- Shatterproof collaborated with The Hartford, Indiana University, and Ipsos global marketing research firm to develop the Addiction Stigma Index. It assesses attitudes from the public about people who use substances, looking at both public and structural stigma. It also looks at the perceptions of people who have substance use disorders: the degree of internalized stigma and perceived exclusion from the community. It is comprised of over 50 validated stigma measures issued to a representative sample of 7,889 U.S. residents. They oversampled people with SUDs and healthcare providers to better learn about their perceptions.
- As an index it measures the change between a pre- and post- intervention evaluation. They take a baseline composite measure of public, structural, and self-stigma, and then measures change over time by later taking composite comprehensive progress measurements. The index incorporates vignettes about someone named John, varying the type of substance used and his recovery status to see how these affect the degree of stigma.
- SUDs are chronic treatable diseases per the DSM and health experts, but less than ¼ of Index respondents viewed SUDs this way. Over ½ believed SUD is caused by bad character or lack of moral strength. Perceptions differed for alcohol use disorder versus other SUDs. Almost ½ of public respondents are unwilling to move next door to or be close friends with someone with a SUD, and findings were similar for a person in long-term recovery rather than in active addiction. Half of respondents do not want a person as a work supervisor or marrying into the family regardless of whether they have an active addiction or are in long-term recovery. Over 40% saw using medications for an opioid use disorder as replacing one addiction for another, with 45% of healthcare professionals holding this view. **Healthcare professional respondents had similar or higher levels of stigma compared to the general public.**
- In the hospital pilot programs, the SASI measures attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals before and after education intervention trainings, as well as how long the attitude change and knowledge lasts following the trainings. Shatterproof is also assessing whether members of the community are aware of resources like naloxone access, treatment options, etc. There are options to add to the Index to assess community-specific areas, but the added items cannot be measured against the national sample. Other entities are using the SASI to benchmark attitudes and knowledge in their jurisdiction or population of interest compared to national data.
- There were high levels of support for employer-sponsored SUD treatment coverage, flexible PTO, inability to expel from school or evict from a home due to an SUD, increased naloxone and fentanyl strip access, and even safe consumption sites. Measuring public views helps inform policy change.
- Rachael will speak with Laura, Cristina, and Ben Stevenson II more about leveraging a partnership with Montgomery County, for the county to use this tool in whatever way it is most useful.

Q&A

- Celia- Using the tool, can you measure stigma variation by gender, race, ethnicity, role as a mother, etc.? The index allows for analyzing responses based on respondents' race, gender, socioeconomic status, education, etc. but it does not measure variations in attitude based on characteristics of the described person with an SUD. Results show that white non-Hispanic respondents held less public stigma toward a person with a SUD while black non-Hispanic respondents held less structural stigma.

There are so many ways to split the data and they are continually analyzing further. Shatterproof hopes one day to be able to measure stigma based on motherhood status. A local community like Montgomery County would be a great population to try out measuring the way that Celia mentioned, since it is easier to get a large enough sample size from a smaller community. Another area Rachael wants to explore further is an initial finding that people who received SUD treatment felt more stigmatized by healthcare providers following their SUD treatment, which is problematic if SUD treatment providers especially are perpetuating stigma

- Judge Bernard- There is so much stigma and stigmatizing language in the court system by all parties. Are you doing work with the legal community? Shatterproof is helping a state do surveillance around public safety including the court systems, law enforcement, and the intersection. Shatterproof member Brian Del Poso is focusing on police. Shatterproof is piloting programs in small populations, seeing what works, and then scaling it. Language, attitudinal, and behavior change take time and it is frustrating with the urgency of the opioid epidemic. Shatterproof has been encouraging shifting focus to addressing immediate symptoms through actions like actionable policy change to reduce stigma, at the same time that longer-term pervasive language and attitude change efforts are being put in place. **Rachael will follow up with Judge Bernard after the meeting through Cristina.**
- There was a question about Shatterproof's work in Maryland. Shatterproof is working with the state on getting Shatterproof's Atlas SUD treatment locator project in effect in Maryland. Cristina added that Anand from Atlas spoke at a previous AODAAC meeting and at that point the Maryland Atlas efforts were at a halt due to COVID, so it is good news that the efforts are being reenergized.
- There was a question about which groups people with SUD experience the most stigma from. Rachael said people with SUD associated the most anticipated stigma with employers, anticipated the most ramifications if employers found out about their SUD.
- Laura asked all attendees for feedback on how they can see the SASI being used in Montgomery County.
 - Judge Bernard said it would be good to have this presentation to share with others in the Bar legal community.
 - Dr. Santiago is thinking of using the SASI to measure changes in attitude in Montgomery County. Once we have the data we should use it for public education campaigns. Also there is a need to use the data to promote treatment programs that are not necessarily publicly popular to educate that the programs do work.
 - Laura added it is important to help people with SUDs feel worthy of help so they will accept it, due to self-stigma
- Cristina added that partnering with Shatterproof is a tremendous opportunity for Montgomery County, to be the first county implementing a tool to look at the effectiveness of our programs at the county level with different sectors of interest, and to identify the gaps. The tool can be shared with other counties like ours, and can focus in on different communities like communities of color to address the county's diversity and inclusion priorities as the most diverse county in Maryland.
- Laura discussed the Start Talking Maryland Act of 2017 that requires age-appropriate opioid-related education in grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. To Laura that is insufficient and the opioid focus is very narrow within SUD, but even more problematic is there is wide variance in what is actually being taught in schools, school by school and even class by class based on the comfort of the teaching staff.
- Celia brought up the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce as a good population to educate and do research with related to employment opportunities for people with SUD histories. Needing to

leave work early for Drug Court (vs. a name like “Recovery Court”, turning in confidential health forms to an employer and being fired with a different rationale, etc. affects employment.

- Laura and Rachael discussed stigma around naloxone/fentanyl strips and agencies/businesses thinking it enables use, and how policymakers’ internal stigma gets in the way of implementation
- Laura and Cristina discussed how both self-stigma and hearing families’ stigmatizing language about other people can prevent someone from asking for help
- Doreen brought up reaching Montgomery County priests at their monthly meeting since people often ask for help from spiritual leaders. Rachael echoed the power of leveraging the faith community.
- Laura emphasized how having SASI measures of progress can help keep morale up for those doing SUD stigma-reduction work, to know a difference is being made despite hurdles encountered.
- Laura encouraged anyone interested (not just AODAAC members) to attend AODAAC subcommittee meetings to give their perspective and help AODAAC implement its hands-on work.

Subcommittee Reports

Treatment & Recovery

- The group planned the virtual event. The first was on 2/19. It went well but was not well attended. **Evelyn asked if everyone can e-mail the flyer to their networks and post it on their social media when Corey resends it.**
- The next 2 events in the ABC’s of Addiction series will be on **3/26 and 4/2**
- Evelyn is looking to step down from Chair of the Treatment & Recovery Subcommittee. Nick expressed interest, but any other interested AODAAC voting members should let Evelyn know so they can be considered.

Prevention and Legislative (combined meeting)

- Half of the time was spent working to finalize Prevention’s approach to changing stigmatizing language in the County Code using the guidance of Words Matter. There are a few people in charge of the task. We hope to be done with this task at the end of the month.
- The second part of the discussion was about what substance use prevention education students are getting at county public schools. We do not have access to the specifics, but in general the curriculum comes through mandated health class curriculums. We identified some gaps in implementation across the board. We hope to do more of an environmental analysis to see how the Start Talking Maryland Act is being implemented and if there is anything AODAAC can do to support MCPS and use resources from groups represented at AODAAC who have access to educational tools on prevention.

General AODAAC Updates

- Laura welcomed back Denyse Dillon, a General Public representative for AODAAC who works in regulatory compliance related to comorbid mental health and substance use disorders at SAMHSA.
- **The AODAAC Executive Committee is currently reading the LBHA FY23 Plan to draft a support letter due Friday 3/25, so there will be a quick turnaround period for voting members to review the letter and offer edits and modifications before it is submitted.**

- Everymind and the County DHHS has made youth mental health first aid classes available. There are some seats open for a March 25 class. **E-mail Laura Mitchell if interested in signing up to attend.**

Ex-Officio Reports (see full reports at the end of this document)

Dr. Santiago of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS)

- BHCS is in the process of getting a common triage and dispatch protocol approved. It specifies the criteria for the mobile crisis outreach teams to respond both with and without police presence. They are communicating with all relevant parties including the union to now be able to have both options.
- The mobile crisis outreach teams are also newly going to be incorporating Peer Recovery Specialists, and BHCS is currently recruiting Peers to hire.
- From 2020 to 2021 there was a 98% increase in responses from the mobile crisis team: from 495 in 2020 to 979 in 2021. In part this has to do with the expansion of mobile crisis, but it also relates to the demand for services. Mobile crisis teams were also present at Friendly Garden Apartments following the explosion, focusing especially on mental health support for affected families.

Hardy Bennett, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS)

- The new Manager III for Adult Forensic Services (the DHHS division that collaborates with corrections) is Monir Khanjani. She has worked many years in corrections as a therapist and supervisory therapist.
- Mental Health Court Graduation is Thursday April 7 at 1:30pm via Zoom. **Corey shared this information and will send it again.** Drug Court Graduation will follow in May.

Sara Rose, Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)

- The LBHA has been developing its FY2023 LBHA plan. They are incorporating substance use prevention and treatment, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Ben Stevenson II, Harm Reduction

- Harm Reduction is working to get Narcan into the community including into bars and restaurants.
- Laura Mitchell and the Harm Reduction Team are providing substance use prevention information and Narcan kits at the vaccination events at public schools that are happening on Saturdays. **As soon as Ben gets the Drug Takeback flyer from the Collaboration Council he will send it to Corey to share with AODAAC to distribute through everyone's networks.**
- The Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) has been meeting regularly. Elizabeth and Corey from AODAAC attended two meetings ago to solicit ideas from youth on how to make the Spring Forum appealing for young people to attend. They will help with youth-led workshops during the Forum. Sara and Ben are helping Youth Ambassadors expand on the Zen Den and use social media and peer education to help with substance use and addiction concerns as well as meditation, yoga, etc. coping skills. The youth have also talked about a chalk-out at schools to write positive affirmations. The YAP end in June and then Ben will begin recruiting for a new YAP cohort in the fall.

Lt. Brent Kearney, Montgomery County Police

- His unit has been active doing undercover work and making drug arrests. In one known dealer arrest they recovered over 1,000 fentanyl pills, 2 kilos of coke, 18 guns, 6 stolen vehicles, and \$85,000 cash.

In another they found 16lbs. of marijuana and pressed fentanyl. They continue to work to quell drug activity in the county.

- There have been 7 total fatal overdoses and 17 nonfatal so far in March. 12 of the nonfatal were as a result of police and first responders having Narcan.
- Ben, the Overdose Fatality Review Team, and Lt. Cohen are working to get Narcan for all police, and Ben is getting a training program together to train all officers and recruits in Narcan administration.
- **Lt. Rosario will follow up on Laura's request for youth vs. adult overdose statistics.**

Amy Samman and Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds, Alcohol Beverage Services

- Tomorrow is the last day for students to submit a PSA to the Keeping It Safe video contest.
- Their resource calendar went out to over 1,000 license holders. It provides information on what inspections will look like, modifications to their business, alcohol hours, etc. to stay in compliance.

Warden Suzy Malagari, Correcitons & Rehabilitation

- The Community Corrections Center remains closed but there is discussion to open it in early Fall to move appropriate inmates into a community setting to help with the reentry transition.
- There is 1 inmate positive for COVID and no positive staff members.
- Family visits resumed last month in a modified way, and they hope to increase visits next months.
- There are 9 inmates in the medication assisted treatment (MAT) program currently
- There are just over 600 inmates at the correctional facility and a little over 40 at the detention center
- Court transports began for the first time since COVID on Monday. There are 400 circuit court cases in backlog so there is a lot of catching up to do. Transports will be ongoing and probably increasing over the next several months.
- Volunteer programming, the barbershop, Montgomery Works, etc. will be coming back to the jails.

Victoria Virador, Board of License Commissioners

- This year to date the board has issued 56 licenses, compared to 78 new licenses in the last fiscal year.
- The number of inspections as of February was 2,355 out of 4,000 required for the year, so they are doing well with the help of a full complement of inspections on duty
- The total violations count is 154 today vs. 46 last year to date and 176 in the 2020 fiscal year. Most are coming from routine inspections- absent records, irregular display of license, absence of alcohol awareness certified person on duty when the inspector comes.
- The underage volunteer program has restarted, with youth using their vertical ID's to try to buy alcohol. Unfortunately in 11 out of 17 of these checks the facility gave alcohol to the minor.

Celia Serkin, Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

- On March 3 MHAC had a panel event on climate change-related emergencies and mental health.

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Department/Agency Reporting: Alcohol Beverage Services, Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education -LRE

Ex-Officio Member Name: Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds, Community Outreach Manager

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

As a control jurisdiction, ABS facilitates the alcohol wholesale distribution to over 1000 licensed establishments in the county. Along with the sale and distribution of a controlled substance comes a responsibility to educate and support the establishments served.

The Community Outreach Office works with license holders to ensure compliance. Helping communities flourish through the promotion of alcohol laws, public awareness and responsible hospitality practices are priorities.

Actions/updates since last report:

The ABS-LRE First Year Intervention (FYI) program visited 14 new license holders in 2022. The program helps new license holders, and their staff understand their roles and responsibilities and prepares them for future compliance inspections.

In January, over 1,000 license holders received a complimentary resource calendar along with their renewal package. The calendar features a monthly description of relevant alcohol rules and regulations, and reminders for best compliance practices. This year, the calendar also includes several QR codes that provide more information about our services and promote interaction and engagement with the license holders.

The Keeping it Safe Coalition for Under 21 Alcohol Use Prevention, has launched its annual video contest. The Coalition has received 28 entries as of March 8. The contest is open to middle school and high school students from both public and private schools in Montgomery County and encourages student groups to submit a 30-second public service message on the dangers of under 21 alcohol consumption. Entries are due on March 11, 2022.

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

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Department/Agency Reporting: Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners

Ex-Officio Member Name: Victoria Virador

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

Authority: The Board of License Commissioners is charged with regulating the sale and distribution of alcohol in accordance with the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and has full power and authority to adopt such reasonable rules and regulations as the Board deems necessary to enable it to effectively discharge the duties imposed upon it by the Alcoholic Beverages Article.

Mission as it relates to AODAAC: To work with the AODAAC to educate and ensure the safe handling, sale and distribution of alcohol to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Actions/updates since last report:

The Board of License Commissioners held full day hearings on February 17 and March 3, 2022 and granted 10 new licenses in total, along with a number of one-day licenses for various fundraising events.

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

In FY22 to date, the Board has issued 56 licenses compared to a total of 78 new licenses issued in FY21. The number of applications generally seems to have the same trend as in previous years. The number of inspections, 2335 as of February (approximately 4000/year is mandated) is up from FY21 due to having a full complement of inspectors on duty. The total violation count is 134 to date, compared to 46 in FY21 and 176 in FY20. Most violations come from routine inspections and include absent records, irregular display of license, and absence of alcohol awareness certified person on duty on inspector's visit. Of particular notice are 'Compliance checks', conducted by the County in conjunction with the Police and featuring recruited minors (Underage volunteers, UV) who attempt to purchase alcohol upon presenting their own vertical ID. These compliance checks have resumed (none were done on the previous two fiscal years). On the first round of compliance checks, 11/17 resulted in violations. We expect this number to trend down as we redouble our efforts to educate the licensees on ID checking.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

The Board welcomes collaboration with AODAAC on education campaigns for the safe handling, sale and service of alcohol to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public at large.

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AODAAC meeting date: 3/10/22

Department/Agency Reporting: DOCR

Ex-Officio Member Name: Suzy Malagari, Warden

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

Actions/updates since last report:

- **Currently there is one positive inmate and no positive staff numbers**
- **PRRS remains closed**
- **Inmate family visiting resumed on 1/30/22**
- **9 inmates are in the MAT program**
- **Count is 609 at MCCF, and 41 at MCDC**
- **Court transports began for both Circuit and District Court on 3/7/22**
- **Discussion is occurring related to additional programs resuming**

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

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AODAAC meeting date: March 11, 2022

Department/Agency Reporting: DHHS

Ex-Officio Member Name: Dr. Rolando Santiago, Chief, BHCS-DHHS

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

The mission of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) is to promote the behavioral health and wellbeing on Montgomery County residents. BHCS works to promote mental wellness, prevent substance abuse and suicide, and to ensure access to a comprehensive treatment and recovery system of effective services and support for children, youth, and families, adults, and seniors in crisis or with behavioral health needs. BHCS is committed to ensuring culturally and linguistically competent care and the use of evidence based or best practices along a continuum of care. BHCS works with the State's Behavioral Health Administration, DHHS service areas, County agencies, and the community to provide strength-based and integrated services to persons in need.

Actions/updates since last report:

1. Crisis Now Model Development: White Bird Clinic Report & Recommendations

On January 17, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) received the final report of training and consultation with the White Bird Clinic (WBC) of Eugene, Oregon. The WBC has implemented the Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS) program for over 30 years. DHHS sought to model its new mobile crisis response model after the CAHOOTS program. The final report included recommendations for:

- a. Common Triage and Dispatch Protocol that specify the criteria for mobile crisis and outreach (MCOTs) to respond to a behavioral health crisis with and without police presence.
- b. Measures for the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) to document in behavioral health crises involving mental health, substance use, and homeless populations.

2. Integration of Crisis Call Centers

There are four call centers that people use in the County during a behavioral health crisis: 911, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Center Hotline, and 311. A Common Triage and Dispatch Protocol is in process of being approved. Once approved, it will help integrate the crisis call centers so that they have a common set of procedures

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for making referrals to the mobile crisis and outreach teams. In addition, this coming July, the ten-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will become a three-digit number, 988. This will triple the amount of calls that the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will receive, which at the same time may triple the number of referrals from this Lifeline to the Crisis Center.

3. Mobile Crisis and Outreach Team (MCOT) Expansion

This past year, six new therapists were hired, and a seventh one is starting soon. This expansion has helped with a dramatic increase in number of responses from 495 in 2020, to 979 in 2021 which is a 98% increase. Fourteen new positions will open at the mobile crisis and outreach teams, eight of these are funded through a SAMHSA grant funded this past fall. About half of these positions will be peer support specialists who bring lived experience.

- a. MCOTs recently provided supports for victims of the explosion at Friendly Garden Apartments on Lyttonsville Road in Silver Spring.
- b. Staff at Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) of DHHS have been building relationships with the cities of Rockville and Takoma Park who have expressed interest in hiring therapists and counselors through the Crisis Center so they can build their own crisis intervention teams with police and without police.

4. Stabilization facilities

Planning and funding for the Restoration Center is well under way. This Restoration Center will stabilize people in crisis over the first 24 to 72 hours. It will also help alleviate emergency rooms who are currently flooded with persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The new building will be in place within the next 4 to 5 years. DHHS received a substantial SAMHSA grant this past fall that will allow it to operate four recliners in a renovated space at the Crisis Center. Although this is modest effort, it will be open 24/7 with nurses and other medical and social work personnel. The stabilization room will open within the next four to six months.

5. BHCS personnel news

- a. Monir Khanjani, who has worked for both DHHS and the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation has been selected as the Manager III for the Adult Forensic Programs with a start date of Monday March 14, 2022.

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- b. On Wednesday, March 2nd, BHCS conducted a 90-minute All Staff Quarterly meeting with 170 of 230 personnel. The staff provided input into BHCS's FY23 Strategic Plan. BHCS leadership staff recognized and celebrated the Crisis Center staff for their performance during the pandemic. They also celebrated several other individual staff for their outstanding performance.

6. Mental Health Court

The Next Mental Health Court Virtual Graduation will be Thursday April 7, 2022 at 1:30 PM via Zoom.

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

Mobile crisis and outreach team (MCOT) responses to behavioral health crises increased by 98% from 2020 to 2021, from 495 responses in 2020 to 979 in 2021. This was in part due to

expansion in staff from 24 on January 1, 2021 to 31 currently. But it was also due to increased demand for services. The Crisis Center has been able to deploy two or three teams during the day and evening shifts regularly, when prior to 2021, only one team was available 24/7.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

- BHCS supports AODAAC through regular activity reports, provision of administrative staff, among others.
- BHCS staff look forward to input from AODAAC members on its FY23 strategic plan.

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AODAAC meeting date: March 10, 2022

Department/Agency Reporting: Montgomery County Police

Ex-Officio Member Name: Lt. Brent Kearney

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

Actions/updates since last report:

Relevant data (i.e. overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

7 reported Fatal Overdoses for the month of February still awaiting toxicology reports to confirm.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

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AODAAC meeting date: March 10, 2022

Department/Agency Reporting: Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

Ex-Officio Member Name: Celia Serkin

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

MHAC was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on matters concerning mental health. MHAC's work includes providing citizen oversight to all state-funded mental health agencies serving Montgomery County and serving as an advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages. The Committee helps to ensure that publicly-funded mental health services are responsive to local needs, accountable to the citizenry and accessible to those in need. MHAC's work includes closely following State and County legislative proposals relating to mental health.

Actions/updates since last report:

During the MHAC meeting held on March 3, 2022, there was a panel discussion on climate change, mental health, and resilience in a pro-active effort to ensure our community's preparedness, awareness, and response to climate change and severe weather events. Helga Luest, Chair, MHAC, asked the panelists specific questions. The invited panelists were:

1. Carmen J. Facciolo - Assistant Chief | Community Resources Bureau, Montgomery County (MD) Police Department
2. Avital Graves, MBA, MHA, NRP, Manager – Mobile Integrated Health Program, MCFRS EMIHS
3. Adriana Hochberg, Acting Director, Department of Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Officer
4. Tina Laboy, MSEM, MSL, CEM - Acting Chief, Planning Division, Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
5. Louise Mitchell – Volunteer, MoCo Climate Action Plan (CAP) Coalition

Tina Laboy was unable to participate because she needed to deal with the explosion that happened at around 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, which was followed by a fire that engulfed a four-story section of the Friendly Garden Apartments about one mile northwest of Silver Spring's downtown area.

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Relevant data (i.e., overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.):

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

MHAC and AODAAC are collaborating on legislative advocacy. Attached is the updated MHAMD Bill list as of March 4, 2022.