

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ADDICTION ADVISORY COUNCIL
AODAAC
September 12, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

Voting Members: Elyse Grossman (Chair), Margaret Mattson (Co-Vice Chair), Isabelle Raquin (Co-Vice Chair), Laura Mitchell, Katrina Busk, Irene Gumucio, Ed” Bunny” Rich, John Sidhom, Malliga Iyer, Michelle Scarlett & Denyse Dillion.

Non-Voting / Ex-Officio Members: Samar Khleif, Ben Stevenson II, Monica Martin, Sara Rose, Kelly Gruitt, Madison Ruppenthal, Roddy Aguirre & Celia Serkin.

Public: Laura Hart, Univ of MD School of Medicine student, Loretta Ingalls, Univ of MD School of Nursing, Lucy Otto, Univ of MD.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:02 pm. Member and guest introductions.

**June 13, 2024, Minutes were approved.*

County Reports:

- **HHS Substance use & Harm Reduction:** Ben Stevenson II provided a verbal report. Highlighting efforts; Bridge to Wellness Program, harm reduction vending machines, Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) will hold a listening session October 8, 2024, possibly will have hybrid portion for those who can’t attend. Emergency Response will be ongoing until March which has focused on the Aspen Hill area, connecting kids to treatment.
- **DHHS:** Monica Martin (Acting Chief) & Sara Rose (LBHA Director) provided verbal updates. Sara reported the Provider Council meeting held Sept. 12, 2024, great turnout! Exciting news, a 3.7 level Adolescent inpatient is open at Mountain Manor. LBHA has received ~60 requests for adolescent inpatient treatment. Recently hired 1st staff person, data Specialist for the expansion of BH services. MD Department of Health launched its new Overdose Dashboard (link in chat).
- **Alcohol Beverage Services:** Roddy Aguirre provided verbal & written report. 85% in compliance. Full report emailed to Members.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools:** Kelly Gruitt provided verbal report. Psych services are in the process of updating procedures. Currently they’re managing Narcan

and Epi pen distribution. Mental Health resource Fair October 26, 2024 (link in chat).

- **Mental Health Advisory Committee:** Celia Serkin provided verbal and full written report. Please see full report emailed to members.
 - **Police Department:** Not Present
 - **Corrections & Rehabilitation:** No Representation
 - **Board of License Commissioners:** Not Present
 - **Commission on Health:** No Representation.
- *Elyse requested assistance from Sara and Monica regarding how to fill or contact those agencies not represented. Currently no representation from those agencies. Additionally, the 3 Vacancies in AODAAC. Pam reported the County is aware of the current vacancies.*

Discussion of AODAAC involvement in County Townhall: Monica asked to please help spread the word to families, young people, and persons with lived experiences to be present at the Town Hall.

Vision, expectations, and priorities for the year (including goals and activities for each of the two sub committees) and discussion of venues and engagement: Elyse reported part of the vision is to raise awareness of AODAAC among the community and to increase engagement of members. Priorities for this year will be presented at the October HHS meeting. Elyse stressed needing hard objectives from each committee.

Discussion held by Members: Priorities to focus on: Advocacy, youth, underage drinking, psychedelics, focus on selective vulnerable populations, training on stigma, changing language within the County, marijuana use in schools and college, patients discharged with limited medications before follow up with doctor can lead to purchasing medication on the street, focusing on the “underserved”, needing multiple language communications, ensuring presentations are bi-lingual trilingual, middle school engagement, make time for outreach events, Narcan is needed at discharge from hospitals, and focus on parental / adult support.

Elyse will consolidate these ideas into a document and email to E-Board before its presented at the October HHS meeting.

Also hope to continue the Legislative Retreat this year. More to come.

In Person / Hybrid meetings vs. Virtual: Elyse discussed the benefits of members meeting in

person and getting to know each other. Proposed to do in person/hybrid meetings October & June and virtual meetings in the winter months. Thus keeping in mind health concerns and venue locations and needs.

Voting Members Voted: Based on chat Vote responses. (11 Voting members present)

- **Vote:** Yes In-Person / Hybrid Board Meetings: **9**
- **Vote:** No Virtual Meetings: 1
- **1 member did not vote.**
- **Members Voted to meet In Person in October & June w/ Hybrid option.**

Coordination will begin in seeking a location. More to come.

New Business:

Ed “Bunny” Rich: Tree of Hope community events (fliers were emailed). Event is October 5, 2024.

Margaret: The importance of engagement with new members, your input is valuable to the group. Please feel free to reach out to the executive Board with questions/ assistance.

Laura: Need to develop a list of members who can attend community outreach events. Laura thanked everyone who attended the Intl. Overdose Awareness Day on August 29, 2024. The event had 47 vendor’s and overall was great event!

It was mentioned that the AODAAC brochure needs updating; to be distributed at outreach events.

Chat links will be emailed to members.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned: 8:59pm.

Next AODAAC meeting October 10, 2024

AODAAC Ex-Officio reports below

ABS Ex-Officio Report

AODAAC Meeting Date: September 12, 2024

Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member Name:

Roddy Aguirre, Community Outreach Manager

Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC):

As a control jurisdiction, ABS facilitates the alcohol wholesale distribution to over 1,000 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.

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

Current compliance rate holds above 85%.

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

None at this time.

Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:

ABS is working on creating a self-paced training for one-day licensees. This will include what they are allowed to do and what they are not allowed to do with a one-day license. In addition, ABS will have two new community outreach inspectors that will work with the community to inspect community events and work to educate the general public on the dangers of improper and unsafe alcohol sale, service, and consumption.

MHAC Ex-Officio Report

AODAAC Meeting Date: September 12, 2024 Department/Agency Reporting: Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) Ex-Officio Member

Name: Celia Serkin, MHAC Liaison to AODAAC 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. Relevant data (i.e., overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.): MHAC had a meeting on September 3, 2024. At the beginning of the meeting, there were updates given on such topics as the Suicide Prevention Coalition and CAYAS Subcommittee. MHAC held elections. Libby Nealis was reelected as Chair and Michelle Grigsby-Hackett as Vice Chair. Libby Nealis will present MHAC's FY26 Budget and Non-Budgetary Priorities to the County Council Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee in October 2024 during the latter's meeting with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC's). Every June MHAC starts their discussion of the FY26 Budget Priorities. In October, the Chairs of all the BCC's meet with the HHS Committee of the County Council where they present their budget priorities/work priorities for the next fiscal year. An overview of these MHAC's FY26 Budget and Non-Budgetary Priorities was given during the MHAC meeting. Attached is the PowerPoint Presentation on these priorities. Below is a summary. MHAC FY26 Budget Priority: Increase Financial Support to Family and Adult Peer-Run Organizations Funded Through DHHS BHCS to Ensure Pay and Benefit Equity FY26 Non-Budgetary Priorities • Better Utilize Advisory Council • Opioid Settlement Decisions by Impacted Community • Bed Registry • Health Coverage Assistance Team (H-CAT) • Medicaid Coverage for Mental Health Services in Schools and Communities • Ensure that Activities Related to Mental Health Services are Evidence-Based (EBP) or Practice-Based Evidence (PBE). Increase Financial Support to Community- Based Family and Adult Peer-Run Organizations funded through DHHS Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council MHAC Ex-Officio Member Report 2 Highlighted was the important work that family peer-run and adult peer-run organizations are doing. There were examples given of how family peers help families in Montgomery County who have children, youth, and/or young adults with mental health, substance use, or co-occurring challenges. During the MHAC meeting, leadership from Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) and the Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), provided important input on the FY25 BHCS Budget and programs within specific program areas. • Monica Martin, Acting Chief of BHCS, gave an overview of the FY25 BHCS Budget. • Sara Rose, LCPC, Director of Local Behavioral Health Authority, discussed LBHA. • Arnecia Moody, LCSW-C, LCSW, LICSW, Senior Administrator, BHCS, DHHS, discussed her program area. She mentioned youth adjudicated as adults who are incarcerated. Some are as young as 13 years old. There is peer support available to those who are incarcerated. • Dorné Hill, LCSW-C, Senior Administrator for Crisis, Intake and Trauma Services, BHCS, DHHS, shared information about her programs. Meredith Peace discussed the partnership of peers and therapists working collaboratively at the Crisis Center. MHAC was interested in knowing how the state budget cuts coming from the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) would impact the County. Sara Rose mentioned that the County was in line for behavioral health assisting living, but BHA stated

that this would not happen as planned. The Leadership of BHCS and LBHA responded to inquiries MHAC had made about the following:

- Homelessness and people having to sleep at the Crisis Center due to the lack of shelter
- Waitlist - Adolescent and Adult Outpatient Clinics. Viviana Azar, who recently retired, gave this information to MHAC. Waitlists were discussed during the meeting.
- Update on hospital overstays for mental health crisis
- Status of hiring a new Chief of BHCS and what is being done to fill the position

Relevant data (i.e., overdose statistics/trends, substance use incidents in schools, etc.): Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC: MHAC and AODAAC will continue to collaborate on various advocacy efforts and events.