

# THE ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG ADDICTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (AODAAC)



## NEWSLETTER: VOL 1

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### WHAT IS THE AODAAC?

The AODAAC provides guidance to the County Executive and County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland in identifying alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment needs and reviewing the County's efforts in addressing those needs. AODAAC also educates the public through regular forums and webinars and serves as a general resource on anything addiction related. AODAAC is comprised of experts in prevention and treatment, and has representatives from the legal, business, and medical communities.

Our mission is to advocate in the County for accessible and comprehensive evidence-based prevention, intervention, and treatment services to promote recovery and reduce the biomedical, psychological, and social complications of alcohol and other drug use.



Mountain Manor Treatment Center for Adolescents

### MEETINGS & CONTACT INFORMATION

The AODAAC meets virtually on the second Thursday of the month from 6PM - 9PM between September and May. All meetings are open to the public.

Information on AODAAC can be found at: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HH S-Program/BHCS/AODAAC>

To apply to become a member, check for on-line announcements at: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards)

AODAAC Staff Liaison: Pamela Abramson  
[pamela.abramson@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:pamela.abramson@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### A NEW TREATMENT CENTER FOR YOUTH

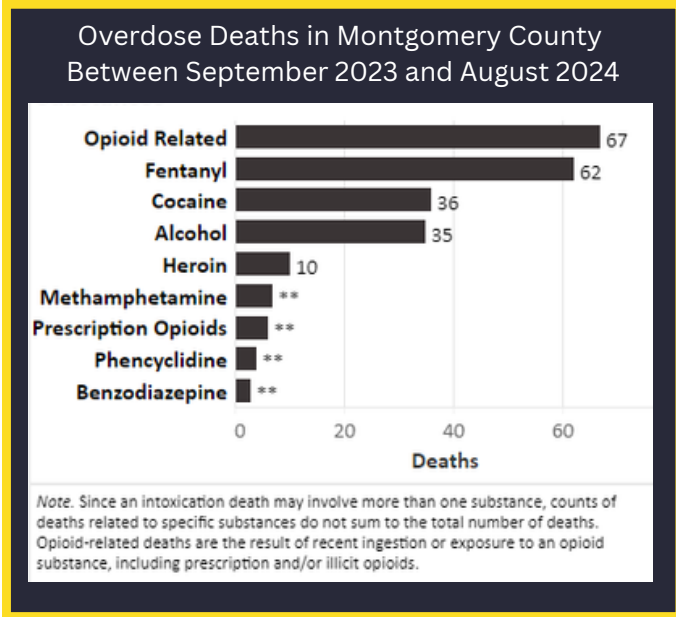
AODAAC is pleased to announce the opening of the Mountain Manor Treatment Center for adolescents in Baltimore, MD.

A local parent reported that, "when my 13-year-old son Logan started on drugs in 2022, there was absolutely no place that would take him, even with private insurance. Most treatment facilities were for 18 years and older. Thanks to AODAAC's efforts and a partnership between the Maryland Department of Health and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, today, there is a NEW treatment center at Mountain Manor which welcomes adolescents and takes Maryland Medicaid. The cost usually associated with inpatient treatment is exorbitant. With this huge achievement, parents no longer have to worry about out-of-pocket expenses associated with getting their children the help they need".

The Mountain Manor Youth Inpatient admission team can be reached at 410-233-1400.

# DATA ON FATAL OVERDOSE RATES AND COUNTY EVENTS

## DATA ON FATAL OVERDOSE RATES



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a 3% decrease in fatal overdoses between 2022 and 2023 - the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018. This good news is tempered by the fact that rates were at a historic high during COVID-19 and are still higher than they were in 2019. Additionally, this only applies to adults as youth rates of fatal overdoses continue to increase.

In 2023, the Maryland Department of Health reported 2,513 overdose deaths statewide with 87% of those being from fentanyl; 138 of them occurred in Montgomery County. Opioids caused 73% of fatal overdoses in the County with the remaining deaths coming from other substances including methamphetamine, cocaine, alcohol, and heroin.

Data available at: <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx>

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL STAFF

Montgomery Goes Purple - a coalition of government, school, non-profit, faith, and community organizations - partnered with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery College, University of Maryland, and dozens of Certified Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) instructors to train School Health Services (SHS) staff in YMHFA. Staff were taught to recognize signs that a student is in distress or crisis, respond appropriately to keep the student safe, and connect them with appropriate providers, when necessary. The YMHFA training emphasizes the importance of early intervention and reducing stigma.

The first training for 300 SHS staff was held October 3, 2024 and was very well-received. Irene Gumucio, a school nurse working at Sherwood High School, attended the training and stated, "The information provided will be essential when dealing with numerous students dealing with mental health and/or substance use crises." A second training for another 100 SHS staff is scheduled.

SHS staff are on the front-line when dealing with mental health and substance use crises among our youth. And yet, many of them feel ill-prepared to intervene due to lack of appropriate training. The YMHFA is a great program and needs to be expanded to include training other adults in the County.

Visit [www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org](http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org) for more information on this training.

## UPCOMING DRUG COURT GRADUATION

On November 13, 2024, the Montgomery County Circuit Drug Court celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Drug Court provides long-term court-supervised treatment for adult justice-impacted individuals who have a substance use disorder. Drug Court provides opportunities for treatment, housing, employment, and education as well the opportunity to expunge one's criminal record. A former drug court graduate and current AAODAC member, Nicholas Borowski, said the Drug Court program, "saved his life."

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Drug Court Graduation on November 13, 2024 at 4PM**  
<https://www.overdoseday.com>
- **November AODAAC Meeting on November 14, 2024**
- **NARCAN Training at Tree of Hope on November 21, 2024**  
<https://treeofhopeassn.com>