

# ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ADDICTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

JUNE 13, 2024  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Voting Members Present:** Elyse Grossman (Chair), Laura Mitchell, John Sidhom, Thomas Chu, Isabelle Raquin, Margaret Mattson, Nick Borowski, Malliga Iyer, Ed “Bunny” Rich, Katrina Busk, Michelle Scarlett & Irene Gumucio.

**Non-Voting Members:** Celia Serkin, Kyle Potter, Man Choo, Rodrigo Aguirre & Sara Rose

**Public:** Avniel Serkin-Ahmed

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm. Quorum present (12). April 11, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Spring Forum Review:** Laura reported overall positive feedback. Speakers were good. Vladimir from Tree of Hope was amazing! Elyse thanked all who were involved.

## ✚ **Election for AODAAC Officers (Chair & Vice Co-Chair):**

- **Nominating Committee: Laura, Nick & Isabelle.** Laura reported no one expressed interest.
- **Nominating Committee nominated Elyse for Chair and she accepted.**
  - *Floor Open for Nominations for Chair: None*
  - Elyse was moved to a created room. Discussion held and Members voted by hand raise feature in TEAMS.

## ✚ **Co-Vice Chair Nominations:**

- **Nominating Committee nominated Margaret Mattson & Isabelle Raquin for Co-Vice Chair.** Both accepted the nomination.
- *Floor was opened for Nominations from the floor: None.*
- Margaret & Isabelle were moved to a created room for discussion and voting by hand raise feature in TEAMS.

## ✚ **Officers for Next Year: Congrats to all!**

- Elyse Grossman (Chair)
- Margaret Mattson (Co-Vice Chair)
- Isabelle Raquin (Co-Vice Chair)

**Discussion:** Letter to the County Council concerning recent budget and staff cuts from the Chief Medical Officer Department MCPS. The drafted letter was shared in TEAMS. The letter once complete will be emailed & reviewed by the E- Board, emailed to members and then to the County Council. AODAAC is asking for immediate action and to look at this decision. Please check your emails as the letter will be emailed by Pam.

**Note:** Voting Members unanimously voted to move forward with the submission of this letter.

Chair update: Memo to the County Council regarding Cannabis & Dispensaries went out today.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**DHHS:** Sara reporting. Dr. Santiago is retired, there's a retirement party for him June 26<sup>th</sup> and a Kudos board if you would like to send well wishes. Monica Martin, interim acting Chief as of June 1, 2024. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Monica has been with DHHS~18 years, she was the Senior Admin for Adolescent & Children Services. She is a LCSW-C.

Sara reported on a recent workshop "Mapping" was held May 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>, 100 representatives from the County. Mapping intercepts where behavioral health crosses legal systems. June is Pride Month upcoming trainings: The Trevor Project & Care Training, will put information in Chat.

**LBHA:** Harm Reduction Team continuing to do outreach, Narcan Training & Awareness in the community.

**Alcohol & Beverage:** Report submitted by Rodrigo. Report is at the end of the minutes, was also emailed.

**MCPS:** Kyle Potter reported due to the budget cuts of the Chief Medical Officer Department, his team is being abolished. He has no information where their work will go at this time. Unsure where staff will be placed. Kyle reported this is his last meeting with AODAAC and as its MCPS liaison. Kyle attended the WRAP program graduation, was happy to attend (5 or 6 graduates). Narcan use cut in half from last year 18 to 9 this year. 9 probable overdoses reverted using the stock Narcan. Kyle reported Ben's team have been working in High schools, recently had a prevention meeting at Wheaton HS with 70 students in attendance. He hopes this will continue next year. Best wishes Kyle and huge loss!

**CORRECTION & REHABILITATION:** No Report

**MCPD:** No Report

**MHAC:** Report submitted by Cecilia Report is at the end of the minutes, was also emailed.

**BOARD OF LICENSING:** Report submitted by Man Choo. Report is at the end of the minutes was also emailed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Cecilia mentioned programming being done with Youth & Substance use by Meghan and Tree of Hope
- **Ed" Bunny Rich":** Tree of Hope Family Recovery Fun Day June 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:50pm

Bohrer park Annual Event. Come out and have fun! Flyer was emailed to members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**Adjourn: 8:05pm**

**July – August 2024 Number Board Meetings. *Please check your email over the summer.***

**Next Board Meeting September 12, 2024**

**Enjoy your Summer!**

(Ex Officio reports below)

## Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council Updated MHAC Ex-Officio

Member Report 1 AODAAC Meeting Date: June 13, 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 did not have a regular meeting in May 2024. All MHAC members were asked to attend the Montgomery County's Virtual Spring Forum Journey to Recovery: Pathways to Healing from Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorders, which was held on May 9, 2024. MHAC and AODAAC worked together to plan the Spring Forum. MHAC held a meeting on June 4, 2024. Bradley Leposa, PHD, NCSP, School Psychologist, Baltimore County Public Schools, and Chair of the MSPA Legislative Committee, was the guest speaker. He discussed efforts to amend the state Medicaid plan for behavioral health in schools, the most recent legislation that did not pass, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming (2023). MHAC would like to focus its advocacy in advance of the next state legislative session. Every June, MHAC starts their discussion of the next fiscal year's budget priorities. During the meeting scheduled for July 2, 2024, MHAC will work on its FY26 Budget Priorities. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division Chiefs, including the Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, will begin preparing their budgets in September 2024. In October 2024, the Chairs of all the Boards, Committees, and Commissions related to the work of the DHHS will meet with the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council to present their Budget Priorities for FY26. Laura Mitchell, AODAAC Liaison to MHAC, will attend the MHAC meeting taking place on July 2, 2024. MHAC appreciates Laura Mitchell's participation and input. 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 legislative advocacy efforts and events.

**Montgomery County  
Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction  
Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member  
Report**

**AODAAC Meeting Date:** June 13, 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.):**

Third-party alcohol delivery has passed in Maryland, but it was deferred to the local jurisdictions on whether to implement it. There is a concern that third-party deliveries might not be diligent in checking IDs.

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

None at this time.

**Current or potential collaborations with AODAAC:**

ABS has selected the finalists for the Keeping it Safe Coalition for Under 21 Alcohol Use Prevention annual video contest for middle and high school students from public and private schools. A total of 60 entries were submitted. Awards ceremony was hosted on May 8, 2024. Dick Lipsky and Chief Marcus Jones received community service awards.

The self-paced ALERT class is ready to be offered online, but it limited to new applicants. ALERT is now translated into Spanish, French, Amharic, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. This training helps to educate and equip business owners and other community members on responsible and safe alcohol practices.

ABS had the first quarterly meeting of the Safety Alliance since 2021. The Safety Alliance is an informal network of local regulatory and code enforcement agencies focused on the impact of dining, entertainment and special events on public health, safety, and quality of life. The Safety Alliance also focuses on identifying risks and protective factors in communities and businesses. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2024.

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

## Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council Ex-Officio Member Report

AODAAC Meeting Date: June 13, 2024 Department/Agency Reporting: Ex-Officio Member

Name: Man Cho, Chair/Commissioner, Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners 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. Agency Mission (particularly as it relates to AODAAC): To work with the AODAAC to educate and ensure the safe use/handling, sale and distribution of alcohol to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Relevant data On May 16 and June 6, 2024, the Board of License Commissioners convened its most recent hearings. The Board reviewed and acted on several new alcohol licenses for establishments ranging from full service restaurants, salons, breweries, beer and wine stores, to 55+ community facilities. For the upcoming June 20 hearing, the docket includes a similar group of applicants. Going forward, the Board anticipates an increased number of new applications for new business establishments, and therefore expects fuller dockets for future hearings. The Board expects this trend to continue with new businesses starting up through license transfer requests or new license requests. The Board currently operates with a full five Commissioners. The Board sees periodic violations of alcohol rules and regulations as they relate to outdoor space, sales or service to minors, alcohol awareness certification and other related records violations. However, recent compliance checks demonstrate an improvement in the number of sales to minors. Just the other day, 17 checks were conducted and only one establishment sold. To date in FY24, 83 compliance checks were completed with 15 sales, resulting in an 84.7% compliance rate. For the remainder of the FY, the BLC is planning complete an additional 50 or so compliance checks, which would amount to about 130 for the fiscal year. The BLC currently has five inspectors which includes two in the process of being hired/onboarded. Sales to minor violations stem from administration of the Alcohol Beverage Service's Montgomery County Alcohol Compliance Check Program. Under this program, the ABS partners with the local law enforcement by bringing a UV to an establishment to see if s(he) is served alcohol upon presenting a valid under-aged vertical Maryland drivers license. If served the business will be fined \$1000 for the first violation with the server being

issued a criminal citation. UVs are paid positions and when an opening does arise, the ABS will recruit widely. ABS is currently in the process of recruiting additional UVs to the team. Please contact ABS's Amy Samman, ABS Division Chief for additional information. The Board also continues to stress to existing licensees and new licensees to keep all alcohol related records in order if and when inspectors arrive and request them. In particular, a licensee must have a Maryland alcohol awareness certified person on premise at all times if and when the business is open to sell or serve alcohol. Other trends we are seeing are violations for noncompliance of the laws pertaining to infusion/premixed drinks. If establishments are serving such specialty drinks, the container needs to be labeled, with specific content of alcohol, date of expiration and limited to five gallons. We are hopeful the Compliance Check Program and educational campaigns conducted by the ABS and BLC will help stem and reduce the number of violations. The board stresses to all establishments during hearings to check ID and read those IDs very carefully before giving it back – not to assume patrons are 21 or over. With educational campaigns by the ABS and through regular Board hearings (both license and show cause hearings) with licensees and new applicants, we anticipate the violation numbers to improve. In FY24 through May 2024, the Board has conducted 2,546 inspections and approved 99 alcohol licenses to establishments. The Board has also revoked and suspended licenses and issued fines and related penalties. Other statistics: From May 2023-April 2024, the Board approved: New and transfer licenses: - 68 new alcohol beverage licenses, including restaurants, independent beer and wine stores, salons, and breweries; - 32 transfers of business ownership or location; - 6 transfers of business ownership with reclassification to a higher class licensee; - 1 reclassification to a higher class license; and - 3 floor plan changes. Show Cause: The Board conducted eleven hearings to show cause why an alcohol beverage license should not be suspended or revoked, or why other sanctions permitted by law, including but not limited to fines and penalties, should be imposed for violations of the rules and regulations. These hearings resulted in: - 3 suspensions of seven days; and - 9 fines with mandatory ALERT training. Renewal: During the annual renewal period, the Board approved: - 1,056 total renewed licenses. 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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