

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Mental Health Advisory Committee</h1> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;">Minutes – September 3, 2024</p>
--	--

Members Present	Members Absent	Ex-Officio and Staff Present	Ex-Officio and Staff Absent	Guests
Bill Ellis	Michelle Grigsby-Hackett	Kelly Gruitt	Michael Mayer	Ziva Azhdam
Jennifer Grinnell	Stephanie Joseph	Samar Khleif		Evelyn Burton
Susan Kerin	Garrett Mannchen	Meredith Peace		Susanna Follingstad
Marissa Leslie		Jordan Satinsky		Dorne Hill
Libby Nealis				Jeffrey Innocente
Alan Orenstein				Robert Landau
Celia Serkin				Lacheal Martin
				Monica Martin
				Margaret Mattson
				Arnecia Moody
				Miriam Ruttenberg
				Venchele Saint Dic
				Beth Tabachnick

- I. **Welcome** – The meeting came to order at 7:06 p.m. Libby Nealis chaired the virtual meeting. The attending members constituted a quorum.

- II. **Discussion of FY26 Budget Priorities** – Libby Nealis and Celia Serkin went over the draft budget priorities and recommendations to present to the County Council. MHAC approved by unanimous consent the general priorities with the Executive Team finetuning the presentation.

- III. **Presentation by BCHS and LBHA** – Monica Martin, Sara Rose, Dorne Hill and Arnecia Moody presented some updates on the county’s services. They noted that the budget has not changed significantly. They also focused on some pain points including the number of unhoused individuals needing shelter; the wait times for treatment; the need for assisted living for older adults with behavioral health needs; and the shortage of treatment beds for juveniles leaving corrections. Diane offered to share the latter concern with the Commission on Juvenile Justice. There was a question about data as well as implementation of Maryland’s new Assisted Outpatient Treatment program. The Chief of BHCS has not been selected yet.

- IV. **Meeting Minutes** – The July 2024 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

- V. **New Business**
 - a. **Suicide Prevention Coalition** – The Coalition did not meet last month. September is Suicide Prevention this month. Alan Orenstein requested to be included on invites to these meetings.
 - b. **CAYAS update** – There was no meeting in August. The subcommittee plans to do a future webinar on school refusal and avoidance.
 - c. **Election for New Executive Committee** – The MHAC approved by unanimous consent the reappointment of Libby Nealis as the MHAC Chair and Michelle Grisby-Hackett as the Vice Chair.
 - d. **Vacancy** – The vacancy announcement is out to recruit additional MHAC members.
 - e. **County Council** – Libby is scheduled to meet with the County Council’s HHS committee in October to present MHAC priorities.
 - f. **October and November Meetings** – Libby asked MHAC members to recommend speakers for the next two meetings. A few peer representatives were suggested.

- VI. **Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting ended at **9:02** p.m.