

# THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Minutes

July 18, 2023

### **Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) Members Present:**

Kate Breen, Joseline Castanos, Kenneth Collins, Kathryn Dilley, Johanna M. Dolan, Sue Doyle, Catherine Drake, Kate Farinholt, Ann Geddes, Lauren Grimes, Kim Hall, Carlos Hardy, Dayna Harris, Kathryn Hart, Helene Hornum, The Hon. George Lipman, Sharon MacDougall, Dan Martin, Mary Pizzo, James Rhoden, Keith Richardson, Kirsten Robb McGrath, Tim Santoni, Deneice Valentine, Kim Wireman

### **Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Absent:**

Lynda Bonieskie, Andrea Brown, Johanna Fabian-Marks, Finch Grace, Rosanne Hanratty, Candace Harris, Joyce N. Harrison, Bari Klein, Jennifer Krabill, Sylvia Lawson, Michelle Livshin, Tammy Loewe, Brendel Mitchell, Andrew Pierce, The Hon. Dana Moylan Wright, Jade Naylor, Vickie Walters, Kimberlee Watts

### **Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Staff Present:**

Marshall Henson, Stephanie Slowly, Lori Bradford, Sarah Reiman, Doris Chen, Michael Harrison, Costella Davis, Caroline Jones, Frank Dyson, Sherone Lewis, Greta Carter, Kaylin Savin, Lisa Fassett, Thomas Merrick, Mary Viggiani, Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, Lucy Bill Moore, Sharon Lipford, Michelle Darling, Rachel Masciarelli- D'Ambrosi

### **Guests:**

Laura Herra Scott, Maryland Department of Health  
Avery Meyer, Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center  
Barbara Allen, James' Place Inc.  
Catherine Gray, Anne Arundel County CSA  
Denyse Langstroff, Maryland Department of Health  
Diana Seybolt, University of Maryland, Systems Evaluation Center  
Eleanor Dayhoff-Brannigan, Maryland Department of Health  
Josh Howe, Compass Government Relations Partners  
Maria Daniels, Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Rachel Ames, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Heather Eshleman, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling  
Katherine Gibson, Maryland Department of Budget, and Management  
Mary Drexler, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling  
Jackie Pettis, Optum Maryland

### **Guests continued:**

Haley Rizkallah  
Thomas Werner  
Shifa Mohiuddin

Aaron Lawler

Lorraine Y. Loera

Annie Olle, Maryland Department of Health

Teresa Heath, Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center

Phyllis McCann, Maryland Department of Health Rebecca

Frechard, Maryland Medicaid

Lori Mannino, Maryland Department of Health

**PRESENTATION: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S PRIORITIES-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE STATE**

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health  
Maryland Department of Health

A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

**Key Points:**

- **Governor's Investment in Behavioral Health - Overview:**
  - FY24 budget includes an additional \$107.5M for Behavioral Health
  - Investment in urgent priorities needed for the Public Behavioral Health System, including statewide crisis services
  - Addresses capacity at the 11 MDH Healthcare System Facilities
  - Creates additional capacity in the community
- During FY 21, substance use disorder (SUD) services claims were submitted by 973 providers across 2,042 locations.
- During FY 21, mental health services claims were submitted by 2,600 providers across 4,481 locations.

**Questions and Comments:**

Non-council members were asked to put their questions and emails in the chat for follow-up purposes.

**Q:** Is there somewhere we can find more information about the continuum of care and the breakouts under each category?

**A:** This is coming. MDH is mapping it out now based on the services that we have and the services that we're paying for and the services that BHA has. It will be shared once it has been completed.

**Comment:** It is notable that the claims do not include Medicare payments. Often the individuals with the most disabling conditions are Medicare recipients.

**Response:** The only data that was readily available was the Optum data. The goal is to build this out and pull in payer data.

**Q:** Why are so many SUD and MH providers out of State?

**A:** The answer is not clear. A guess is that people are just getting services wherever they know how to get to those services whether or not it's provided where they live.

**Q:** In relation to outcomes, will Maryland be renewing the requirement for some of the essential information for people in the PBHS including housing, education, incarceration, and working when the new ASO contract is implemented?

Prior to 2020, the ASO collected information. There was a decision made that violated parity. A concern of the BHAC is that we are not able to report some of the outcomes that are part of the federal block grant requirements. Will that change when the new ASO contract is implemented?

**A:** We are still working on the parity issue. The hope is yes. The RFP is closing and is under evaluation now. It is part of the evaluation. We will have to see who the new vendor is when the evaluation is done. We will need to work that out with Medicaid so that parity is not an issue moving forward.

**Q:** Regarding HB 1148, the Commission is taking the place of the previous Administration's commission to study mental and behavioral health. That was led by the Lieutenant Governor. Will you use the old Commission's work to help start up the new Commission? **A:** We can bring this up when the Commission is established. I haven't seen the old Commission's work to understand how relevant or not it is.

**Q:** At the last meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee, there were 170 people who were waiting to be discharged from the hospitals. They're clinically appropriate for discharge, but they're not discharged in the community. How much money is going towards that? How about replacing the beds at Spring Grove?

**A:** The planning is still going on. Of the \$107.5 million, \$10 million will be used to expand capacity for that. Whether we build more beds or not, we still don't have the infrastructure to meet the needs of the people that are still sitting in beds. We're looking at the claims to understand what services are being provided and where.

## **INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF MINUTES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Katie Dilley, co-chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. She reviewed logistics for conducting the meeting virtually, including the use of the camera option, and muting, to reduce interference, and how to view the interpreters if needed. Minutes from the May 16, 2023, BHAC meeting were reviewed and approved. Approved minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's website at: [Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council](#).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

If Council members have any topics or presentations that they would like to hear about, please let Kate Farinholt, Katie Dilley, or Greta Carter know. If Council members are interested in presenting on a topic, please let the co-chairs know as well.

### BHAC Committees:

An expectation for Council representatives is that they serve on at least one of our BHAC subcommittees. Greta sent out a short survey to council members in March to indicate which committees you are currently represented on or if you have an interest in serving on one of the committees.

### BHAC Vacancies:

There are still vacancies on the BHAC: two vacancies for a parent of a young child with behavioral health disorders. The BHAC is also in need of a medical professional representative. The following BHAC committees are in need of co-chairs: Criminal Justice/Forensics, Planning, and Cultural Linguistic Competency, and Prevention Committees.

Committees are open to the membership at large. Co-chairs must be representing a council position.

### Committees Meeting Today:

Children, Young Adults, and Families Committee  
Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee  
Criminal Justice/Forensics Committee  
Prevention Committee

### Committees Not Meeting Today:

Recovery Services and Support Committee will reconvene in October.  
Planning Committee will meet on September 12.

### Other Committees/Workgroup Openings:

There are multiple openings for the state hospital/RICA boards- Perkins, SHC, ESHC, SGHC and RICA Baltimore. They are in need of any health professionals or public members with an interest in mental health/SUD. They prefer members that reside in the hospital's catchment area, and they meet 4-6 times a year either at the facility or virtually. If interested, please go to the Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations (OAEN) website. They update all openings weekly.

For more information:

<https://mdhappointments.health.maryland.gov/BoardAppointments>

Please contact Michelle Morningred for more information: [michelle.morningred@maryland.gov](mailto:michelle.morningred@maryland.gov) and (667) 203-8985.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Marshall Henson  
Director of Operations  
Behavioral Health Administration

Administration provided general updates and information from BHA. Highlights were as follows:

### General Updates

- The new Block Grant application for mental health and substance use has been released and has a deadline of September 1.
- BHA continues to work in collaboration with the Operations Division of MDH on hospital diversion - both state hospitals and hospitals in the community.
- As part of the State Opioid Response 3 grant, BHA's Office of Public Awareness is creating a PSA addressing the presence of xylazine and street drugs.
- The 988 public awareness campaign has three new PSAs that address youth, adults, and the Spanish speaking community. BHA is recognizing and building upon the value of peer services.
- With BHA's partnership with Maryland Medicaid, BHA has launched reimbursement for services provided by certified peer recovery specialists specifically in SUD outpatient settings, including opioid treatment programs and federally qualified health centers.
- The certified peer recovery specialist job classification within the State has been approved for a grade increase.
- Maryland's Commitment to Veterans has developed a request for applications for the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans and their families.
- BHA Service Access and Practice Innovation submitted an application for 988 suicide and crisis lifeline funding on June 26. SAMHSA was accepting applications for FY23 states and territories to improve local 988 capacity.
- The State Opioid Response (SOR) 3 grant program has received funding and approval from SAMHSA to expand 988 call centers and the ability to follow up with calls that relate to an opioid or stimulant concern. This includes funding for each of the eight call centers to employ two addiction specialists at each location.

- Additionally, with SOR 3 funding, BHA has been approved to implement screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) within crisis stabilization centers. SBIRT

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will be implemented as a pilot project within two Maryland crisis stabilization centers which are yet to be determined.

- The development of a Maryland specific suicide prevention toolkit for grades K-12 has begun. It will be used for both public and private schools. The toolkit will be based on a framework that includes suicide awareness and prevention, suicide intervention, and post intervention. It is anticipated that the toolkit will be available by the end of the summer with statewide training for school personnel to occur during the early fall.
- BHA's Office of Suicide Prevention has collaborated with a number of entities to form specific public awareness campaigns under the general tagline of Together We Care. One of the most recent campaigns titled Caring Out Loud began in June 2023 in collaboration with the Trevor Project to provide lifesaving care to LGBTQ+ young people. They are focusing training, suicide prevention, and outreach to BHA staff and members of the Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention and health care professionals across Maryland.
- Another campaign in development, Caring for Champions, is targeted to the athletic community and their support systems.

### Questions and Comments:

**Q:** Can you share the budget initiatives that might be under consideration for BHA? **A:** They are now being prepared. Some things being considered are continuation of roll out for crisis system expansion and needs in the community services space for state hospital discharges. The Secretary's Office has been intentional at looking at the data and identifying the gaps and white spaces.

**Q:** You listed a number of different projects. Where/who would we contact to find out more about each of these?

**A:** These will be included in the notes with a designee to reach out to with specific

questions. **COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS**

### Children, Young Adults, and Families Committee – no updates

**Q:** A number of months ago, our committees were asked to identify two or three priorities that we wanted to focus on. What's happening with that? What's the next step? We had presentations on our priorities. In the past, priorities were forwarded to the full council to see if the council wanted to consider them as priorities. Is that going to be the next step? **A:** Katie Dilley - Thank you for raising that. We are hoping to have some consistency with priorities

across the committees. We are in the process of organizing that. Please resend the priorities to Kate and I.

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Kate - The committees have been doing great work. We want to make sure that there are clear processes. We have to decide as a council how to advocate for different things.

**Planning Committee** – Tim Santoni shared that the committee was discussing potential changes in the bylaws, establishing policies to determine who are members of the committee and how voting should take place. The committee discussed ways to look at how to be more proactive about legislation going forward. Tim will be reviewing parts of the plan and writing a letter on behalf of the council that will go to SAMHSA.

Katie extended her gratitude to Sarah Reiman who has been proactive with sharing information on the Block Grant application process.

**Criminal Justice/Forensics Committee** - Judge Lipman shared that they have been discussing community placements and hospital bed resources.

**Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC) Committee** – Sharon MacDougall shared that the committee is working with BHA to update the CLC Strategic Plan and particularly the data sections which need updating.

**Recovery Services and Support (RS&S) Committee** – No updates

**Prevention Committee** – Kirsten Robb-McGrath shared that the committee is reconvening at 2pm today. They will be looking at the bylaws for the prevention committee. They will draft new language and bring it to the Executive Committee and BHAC for a vote. Another goal is to work on the prevention framework with the Prevention Division of the Maryland Department of Health.

### **Feedback/Discussion:**

Katie Dilley- There may be more updates regarding the relationship with the Commission that is established in HB 1148. Please familiarize yourself with that legislation. It is available on the Maryland General Assembly website.

The next Behavioral Health Advisory Council Meeting is September 19, 2023.