



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

## MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

July 15, 2014

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** Gerald Beemer, Sarah Burns, Chair; M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Mike Finkle, Dennis McDowell, Joanne Meekins, Livia Pazourek, Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon, John Turner

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Joshana Goga, Edwin C. Oliver, Robert M. Pender, John Scharf, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Robert Anderson, T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Naomi Booker, Chicquita Crawford, Kate Farinholt, Ann Geddes, Julie Jerscheid, George Lipman, Dan Martin, Ebele Onwueme, Cynthia Petion, Jacqueline Powell, Phoenix Woody

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, Michael Bluestone, Eugenia W. Conolly, Herb Cromwell, Jan Desper, R. Terence Farrell, Nancy Feeley, Vira Froehlinger, Scott Gibson, Victor Henderson, Sharon Lipford, Michael Lang, William Manahan, Alexis Moss, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Michelle Stewart, Kathleen Ward

**MHA Staff Present:** Brian Hepburn, Robin Poponne, Greta Carter

### **Guests and Others:**

Zereana Jess – Huff, ValueOptions@Maryland; Jacquelyn Pettis, ValueOptions@Maryland; Tim Santoni, University of Maryland-Systems Evaluation Center; Daphne Klein, On Our Own of Prince George's County; Mary Pizzo, Office of the Public Defender

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c/o Behavioral Health Administration

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TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Sarah Burns. Attendees introduced themselves. The draft minutes of the June 17, 2014 meeting were approved. Please note that the approved minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) Web site at [www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mha](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mha). The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Livia Pazourek announced that her organization, Supported Housing Developers, had housing vacancies for individuals with a mental illness who have vouchers or other rental assistance. If interested, Ms. Pazourek can be reached at 410-768-6777, X 234.
- The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health (MCF) and the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) together have been nominated for the Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) Recognition Program which is sponsored by SAMHSA's Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign. MHAMD and MCF have been nominated in two categories (Audience: Professionals and Strategy: Media Outreach) for their joint efforts in the success of Maryland's Campaign. The winner is determined by the number of on-line votes received. The link for voting by the general public has been shared through email with Council members in case people wished to submit a vote by July 17, 2014. All winners will be announced on Friday, July 18 at 12:15 PM.
- Chiquita Crawford announced that she has been named the Chairperson for the Baltimore City Public School's Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC). Meetings are open to the public and, if interested in attending any of the meetings beginning in September, you may contact SECAC at 443-642-4502.
- Kate Farinholt announced that the NAMI MD will convene its Annual Meeting and Walk Awards on Sunday, July 20 from 2:00 to 3:30 in Columbia Maryland. The NAMI Board of Directors will be elected at the meeting and current members have the option of voting on-line if not able to attend. Additionally, the NAMI MD Annual Conference will take place October 17-18 at the Sheppard Pratt Conference Center in Baltimore. NAMI is currently soliciting for workshop presentations. Sessions and workshops will include topics such as accessing benefits, healthcare reform, and advocacy training. For more information, please contact NAMI Maryland at 410.884.8691 or [namimdevents@namimd.org](mailto:namimdevents@namimd.org).
- Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition for Children's Mental Health (MCF) announced its annual Connections Conference to take place on September 27, 2014 at Martin's West in Baltimore. This full-day conference addresses issues for families of children and teens with behavioral health challenges. More details and registration information will be available through the MCF Web site.
- Cynthia. Petion reported, in addition to Dr. Brian Hepburn's remarks below, that the federal agency, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is supporting efforts across the country to address the needs of individuals with early serious mental illness. States are required to set aside 5% of their mental health block grant (MHBG) allocation to support "evidence-based" or "promising model" programs, such as the early psychosis intervention program entitled Recovery After an Initial

Schizophrenia Episode (R.A.I.S.E.), which addresses first episode psychosis (FEP) or early intervention. SAMHSA is partnering with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to provide guidance to states on the implementation of similar programs, along with information on components of coordinated specialty care. The BHA will use the MHBG 5% set aside to further expand first episode psychosis programs in Baltimore City and Montgomery County. Currently, the MHBG funding supports crisis response systems, implementation of EBPs, evaluation and quality improvement, data collection and analysis, respite care, transition age youth initiatives, school based mental health, stigma, and workforce development trainings.

- In response to a question, Ms. Petion informed the Council that SAMHSA is sponsoring a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention grant, focusing on individuals ages 25-64, for which the Behavioral Health Administration's Office of Child and Adolescent Services has applied.
- The Joint Council will not meet in August. In September there will be a meeting of the Combined Councils in the Dix building. More information will be forthcoming.

#### **THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The Behavioral Health Administration's Executive Director, Brian Hepburn, M.D., provided the following Director's Report:

##### **Behavioral Health Integration (BHI):**

The Mental Hygiene and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse administrations have officially merged to become the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) as of July 1, 2014. The organizational chart depicting pillars, led by five Deputy Directors – Operations, Facilities, Clinical, Population-Based Behavioral Health, and Child and Adolescent - is available on-line at [www.dhmfh.maryland.gov](http://www.dhmfh.maryland.gov) through the Behavioral Health and Disabilities link, then clicking on Integration Efforts. This chart gives a picture of the various offices under the BHA. However, please note it is in the process of being updated for minor changes. Dr. Hepburn stated that while the chart delineates separate roles/functions, the work of the Behavioral Health Administration involves overlap and collaboration across the system. These offices/roles should be viewed only as starting points and, as the administration moves forward, a team approach will continue to be emphasized.

##### **Budget:**

The MHA Budget for FY 2014 ended balanced. The FY 2015 BHA budget has been cut by \$2.8 million but the cuts will not impact current programming. The cuts were related to a federal-state fund transfer (as a result of an increased accumulation of federal funds from the IMD Demo as compared to the projection in the initial budget) and a \$600,000 savings as a result of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion. There are no other cuts anticipated at this time.

**Uninsured/Medicaid:**

The expansion of Medicaid and the efforts through the Affordable Care Act decrease the number of individuals who are uninsured in the Behavioral Health system. However, Medicaid does not provide coverage for all recovery services and the need to cover some individuals, who are uninsured, through state funding remains.

**Evidence-based Practices:**

Dr. Hepburn noted that SAMHSA encourages Maryland to share its progress in the use of evidence-based practices (EBPs) particularly in the areas of integration and business practices. Additionally, Maryland's Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (R.A.I.S.E), (an evidence-based program that addresses the first episode of psychosis of individuals within the first year or two of their first diagnosis of schizophrenia with the goal of preventing later decompensation) is seen as a model for the rest of the country. Federal dollars have been added to the Mental Health Block Grant for states to create a 5% set aside to support programs similar to Maryland's. The Block Grant funds, here in Maryland, will support the expansion of R.A.I.S.E from two sites to four.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' AREAS OF CONCERN:**

Livia Pazourek expressed her experience that when individuals with mental illness move from residential rehabilitation programs into independent housing, they are no longer SSI-eligible and no longer have access to certain support services that assist the tenant to stay in the community such as assistance with roommate conflicts, budget/bill paying, and other problem solving skills. Dr. Hepburn asked that Ms. Pazourek submit her specific concerns to him to further with the BHA Office of Adults and Specialized Behavioral Health Services.

Additionally, there was some discussion of the experience of some Council members regarding the disparities between SSI and SSDI benefits and eligibility, as well as between Medicaid and Medicare. It was suggested that a presentation in the near future provide information on this subject matter.

There have been a couple of inquiries about the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, which is chaired by Dr. Hepburn. Meetings are open to the public and the next meeting will convene on Wednesday, August 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover MD.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**Continuation of Terms:**

Kim Bernardi in the DHMH Office of Appointments has not, in light of the pending development of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council, required Governor appointees who are up for re-appointment in FY 2015 to submit requests for re-appointment. Their terms are automatically extended within statute that stipulates members can serve beyond their term expiration until they are replaced. This extension applies to Sue Diehl, Livia Pazourek, and Dennis McDowell.

**Current Officers:**

Also, due to the focus on developing the Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC), a new slate of officers was not implemented on July 1, 2014 at which time the term of the current officers would expire. The current officers – Chair, Sarah Burns; Vice Chair, Sue Diehl; and Planning Council Coordinator, T.E. Arthur – were available to continue to serve. Rather than nominate a new slate, the Council voted to extend the term for the officers to serve until the new legislation for the BHAC is implemented.

**FY 2015 State Mental Health Plan:**

The Planning Committee of the Joint Council reviewed the FY 2015 State Mental Health Plan and elements of the Mental Health Block Grant on June 17, 2014. The Committee discussed and offered feedback on objectives and strategies in the draft plan and expanded, modified, and strengthened areas as appropriate. Areas of focus included, among others: continued promotion of collaborative partnerships; strategies that addressed the needs of individuals with co-occurring issues across the lifespan; enhancement of opportunities to support the further development of Peer Specialists; continued emphasis on technology and data collection systems; and continued emphasis on wellness, prevention, recovery, workforce development, forensic issues, and community re-entry supports. The Council thanks the following members for giving their time and efforts to this review: Sue Diehl, Phoenix Woody, Julie Jerschied, Chiquita Crawford, Victor Henderson, and Dennis McDowell. Also, thanks to all who offered feedback and suggestions through the Stakeholders' Plan Development meeting in April.

The Joint Council recommended and approved the adoption of the FY 2015 State Mental Health Plan, which will be distributed electronically before the end of July.

**Proposed Recommendations of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council Workgroup  
Toward The Establishment of One Behavioral Health Advisory Council.**

The Joint Council membership, led by Behavioral Health Advisory Council Workgroup participants who were present at the meeting on July 10, 2014, discussed some of the elements that will be included in the draft legislation to establish one Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Both the Joint Council and the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (SDAAC) were well represented at the Workgroup meeting. Some elements to be included are:

- Federal requirements – composition required by federal statute for planning councils. Planning Council will no longer be separate but incorporated into Council as a whole
- Membership – A combined Council will consolidate efforts for members who previously served on two councils. Some will be ex-officio, some appointed
- Number of meetings per year – Six times per year
- Terms of service – length remains three years
- Committee structure – will be listed in greater detail in By-laws

Information was shared and points were clarified by the Workgroup members.

After final recommendations are received by the Workgroup, the next step will be the drafting of language for the legislation and the repeal of the former statute and executive order that originally established the Maryland Advisory and the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Councils.

The draft will be developed by Rachel Faulkner, Director of Office of Governmental Affairs and Communications, BHA, who will hand it off to BHA and DHMH leadership. While this is a process not usually shared outside of the agency, some elements in a preliminary draft may be shared prior to the August submission of the official draft. (An updated draft of Behavioral Health Advisory Council Workgroup recommendations will be sent to members of both Councils.) There may be some changes to the final draft legislation.

Thanks to all the members of the Workgroup; Joint Council – Sarah Burns, TE Arthur, Sue Diehl, Dan Martin, Sarah Rhine, Julie Jerscheid, Ebele Onwueme, Robert Anderson, Naomi Booker, Dennis McDowell, Jessica Honke, and Eugenia Conolly - as well as the members of SDAAC – Kathleen O'Brien, Rebecca Hogamier, John Winslow, Lori Brewster, and Lynn Albizo who gave time and efforts toward this process. Also, thanks to all members who submitted comments. Stay tuned for the next phase which will include a robust process by an ad hoc committee to develop the By-laws.

The meeting was adjourned.

**The Agenda for the October 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting will be posted on the Advisory's Council's web page, under the resources section, on MHA's Web site [www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mha](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mha).**