Howard County Disability Inclusion, Safety and Crisis Response Task Force

October 22nd, 2026
11a – 12p
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Focus

The task force reviewed and refined its draft recommendations in preparation for a scheduled vote. Discussion focused on improving the clarity, accuracy, and consistency of the overview and detailed recommendations, including mobile crisis response and dispatch coordination, operational assessment, training, disability inclusion, and implementation oversight.

Discussion: Proposed Recommendation Amendments

Members discussed terminology to describe the relationship between the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) and dispatch, including "co-locate," "centralize," "integrate," "embed," and "unified." The discussion emphasized improved coordination among clinicians, dispatchers, 911, and 988, while recognizing that stronger integration could be achieved through different operational models. The revised draft will use "embed" in place of "co-locate" where indicated.

Members proposed adding a comprehensive, independent review of current mobile crisis response practices and operations to assess effectiveness, identify service gaps, and identify opportunities for improvement. They also called for clearer language about the resources required to meet current needs and projected future demand. Consideration was given to assessing existing MCT and dispatch operations as part of this review.

The task force discussed expanding the training review to include relevant organizations and more clearly address communication-related questions. Members raised the importance of assessing officer competency and considering methods to evaluate training and response practices.

Members discussed establishing a steering committee by Executive Order to monitor implementation of the recommendations. The proposed committee would issue annual progress reports and oversee community engagement, including the community survey process.

Members revised the proposed overview language, including a reference to Alex LaMorie by name. They emphasized person-centered wording, such as using "people" rather than "individuals" and "neurodivergent people" rather than "neurodivergent individuals." The task force also stressed that people with disabilities should participate in all aspects of the next implementation phase.

Members were encouraged to submit specific edits and suggested wording during the meeting, including through the meeting chat, so changes could be tracked in the draft.

Conclusion

- Update and circulate the revised recommendations before Tuesday's scheduled vote (October 27 @ 11); members should review them in advance. Organizations whose designated representatives cannot attend the vote must provide an alternate to vote in real time. Participants experiencing Webex access issues were asked to notify meeting coordinators; email addresses would be collected to support access to future meetings.