

HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council

June 3, 2020
5:15 – 7:15 pm
ZOOM Platform

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Barbara Allen, Laura Torres, Mark Donovan, Beth Harbison, Robin Bartko, Jack Kavanagh, Joanie Elder, David Sabat, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Shereen Bentley, Roe Rogers- , Joan Webb-Scornaienchi, Mimi Matthews, John Way, Theresa Collins , Katie Dant, Teron Powell, Liesele Wood, Beth Schmidt, James LeMon

Meeting was convened by Barbara Allen at 5:20 p.m.

Introductions: Debbie Nix may or may not join in, her husband is being released from healthcare where he has been for the past couple of months. Barbara sent out some articles and membership lists today. Introductions with report outs regarding COVID-19 impacts if any:

Joanie-All of the men at Donnelly House are employed and no relapses

Cindy – some court functions will be returning to in-person next week

John Way- MHFA will be all virtual training hopefully by end of June

Katie – status quo, starting to think about bringing staff to building, but it will be slow. Virtual services continue. Has been an increase in SUD cases

James – working to finish this school year, plan for summer and fall and start virtual graduations tomorrow

Laura – increase in SUD cases in ED, 16 SBIRT interventions over this past weekend. Services continue to be virtual since hospital is still on full COVID lockdown with PPE, etc

Liesele – not seeing people in person but still providing virtual services and looking at ways to get narcan into the community. Also working on Fentanyl campaign

Mark – still busy doing telehealth and working with insurance companies

Robin – Parents are looking forward to school coming to an end, Robin is providing referrals to counselors/psychologists, etc. More people looking for ways to boost their immune systems, and doing more work on mindfulness programming

Roe – health dept has a lot going on regarding webinars around coping with crisis in collaboration with Inquiring Minds. They are also looking into setting up more webinars on cultural competency. Follow the Health Dept on Social Media

Shereen - Continue to work remotely at the Health Dept

Teron – Continue to provide services to patients. Office has necessary PPE and shields to protect clients and staff. He has developed a reintegration plan. Continues to work with Grassroots and connected a patient from the ED to services.

Jack Kavanagh – no inmates have had the COVID virus. There have been a couple staff that have had it. New focus is on how to get services back into the detention center. AA & NA meetings started last week.

Beth H- developed SOBAR in a box, which will be launching this weekend. Starting planning for New Years Eve event.

Mimi – Some virtual services, and churches are starting to happen slowly. Not able to visit people in any facilities

Beth S – continuing to provide remote family peer support. Launched a bunch of state-wide support groups and webinars. Have not been able to launch the restaurant support project.

Theresa – in last 2 weeks there has been an increase in overdoses. All have occurred in residences or hotel rooms when person was alone. HC is down in non-fatals by about 19%. Up 25% in fatals compared to same time last year

Sean Hughes – Thanks to all that everyone is doing; especially the health dept and school system

Barbara – seen increases in applications for recovery housing scholarships. These are needed when people are getting out of detox, treatment or detention. If not able to go “bed to bed” may have to find a way to quarantine. So far able to get all applicants into safe housing. New brochure from Institutes for Behavior Resources (IBR)/REACH in Baltimore called “asked & answered”. Answers 5 critical questions for understanding the value of MAT in opioid use disorder treatments.

Minutes were approved with a change to the spelling of Robin’s name. There were also a couple of highlighted areas that required info/corrections. A motion by Beth H and Joanie E seconded their approval.

Updates/Announcements:

- Ginger Rosella, an advocate with MCF, was killed in a car accident over Memorial Day weekend. She had lost her son Jake to SUD 6yrs ago. She was a great advocate and will be sorely missed for her advocacy and services to families.
- Roe announced that Bureau of Behavioral Health had created video clips on Foreign born, overdose response, MH awareness. Facebook live event occurred with Inquiring Minds and another planned that will include peers as well as with a doctor re: COVID. More Instagram, twitter & FB videos to come. Ten different 10 COVID resource and response webinars have occurred in the past couple of months. All have been recorded and can be found on HCLHIC.org website’s behavioral health page.

Agency updates:

Discussion of Executive Order draft – Cindy and Sean H. provided some legal feedback to Barbara. Barbara continues to work on the draft. The Fire & Rescue rep has been updated to Eric Hann vs Matt Levy on the membership list. Cindy did speak with Judge Zwaig, who expressed interest in participating and will hopefully join our meeting next month. There are a couple of other participants that are interested in participating so the list continues to be updated.

*Is there an interest in extending the OCCC to 15 months vs 12 since there has been a hold due to COVID? Cindy would like the group to continue as long as it is needed. Teron agrees that it should continue since there is likely to be an increase in the #s as a result of the pandemic. Katie is also in agreement with extending. Many others in the group agreed that extending the time the OCCC is in place is important and necessary, especially if the county exec is supportive and agrees that it is necessary. Barbara will include the extension in the updated executive order.

Barbara requested the support of a co-chair. A volunteer please!

Let’s also not forget alcohol, as it is a major substance abused in the community.

There is an OCCC grant opportunity that Liesele is facilitating. It is due this Fri, 6/5/20.

Stimulus checks did cause relapse in some areas, but not in others. Living in a recovery house has been very positive for many people in recovery, especially as AA & NA meetings have become virtual. The sense of community and the support is very important. Robin mentioned a book entitled Together by Vivek Murthy which talks about this concept.

2020/2021 Strategic Plan and budget discussion

- Treatment & Recovery – not covered
- Adjudication & Enforcement – what is something meaningful that can be done for the first responders during COVID? Can we get a proclamation from the county executive to acknowledge the work that they are doing in the meantime? If a proclamation is drawn up, the district commanders would be supportive of it. It could be done during a briefing. Theresa and Teron will work on this. Can we provide a meal or gift card for Dunkin Donuts?
-providing a give-away to those that have graduated from drug court? Unclear if we can provide them with anything.
-Let Barbara know if you have any other ideas
- Prevention – not covered
- Communications – possible PSAs can be created (something similar to the videos that Barbara sent out from Carroll county)
- Business & Community Engagement – not covered

The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm; moved by Sean and seconded by Teron

Minutes submitted: Beth Harbinson