

Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021, 5:00 pm

Howard County Health Department (HCHD), WebEx Platform

Present: Michele Brown, Janet Edelman, Joan Webb-Scornaienchi, Genny LaPorte, Robert Ehrhardt, Mike Demidenko, Mark Donovan, Hilari Young, Lisa Davis, Kelly Proctor, Timothy Madden, Julie Cleveland, Bruce MacDonald, Stephanie Porter, Orlando Wright, Jim Filipczak, Brook Hubbard, Andrea King-Wessels

Excused: John Way, Cindy Johnson, Andre’a Watkins, Jacqueline Scott

Unexcused: Stephen Foster

Staff: Tia Gaymon, Shereen Cabrera-Bentley, Ben Ferguson, Justine Muyu

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Meeting began at 5:05pm	
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve Agenda for March 10, 2021	Vote: The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve February 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes	Vote: The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
Attendance Review	John, Andre’a, Cindy and Jacqueline were excused from this month’s meeting.	
Presentation	Justine Muyu, LEAD Program Manager & Benjamin Ferguson Howard County Behavioral Health Court Liaison, Howard County Health Department – Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Presentation – LEAD is a national program that originated in Seattle, WA and was created by the State’s Attorneys and Crime Prevention Offices. This program was created as an alternative means to jail for people who are being charged with misdemeanor crimes and possess behavioral health issues. Law enforcement is encouraged to divert/refer clients to case management services to receive assistance with their behavioral health challenges and gain access to resources (housing, employment, etc.). LEAD connects law enforcement, local government community partners and healthcare providers. Research as shown a reduction in new felonies filed and prison admissions while providing an increase in permanent housing and legitimate income for the individuals. There are currently 4 up and running LEAD programs in Maryland with 5 more programs in the planning phase. Howard County’s LEAD program is projected to launch Summer 2021. The target area will include Columbia Mall, Howard County Hospital and Howard Community College. HC LEAD program has an open Request for Proposal to hire a case management agency.	Action Item: Tia will forward LEAD presentation to the Board.

	Questions: jmuyu@howardcountymd.gov	
LBHA Director Updates	<p>Shereen reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aetna Health and BBH will hold their next BH Summit on 3/17/21 at 12pm. Topic for this summit: Part 5: Growing Your Wellness Toolbox • <i>Difficult Conversations About Race</i> video series by Dr. Robert Evans has been shared with the Board for review. Currently planning facilitated video discussions which should begin early April 2021. 	
Program Development Committee Updates	Genny reported that the committee is working through SUD for ages 12-17 and would like to have experts in this field on board to help add to the conversations.	
Board Development Committee Updates	Michele had nothing to report.	
Strategic Development Committee Updates	Brook had nothing to report.	
Proposal Review Committee Updates	Mike had nothing report but believes HCHD has disbursed the grant money.	
Critical Indicator Committee Updates	Jim reported that the committee, with Dr. Wright as knowledgeable lead, wanted a way to access macro level information within CRISP (i.e., not individually identifiable data) that could help them understand status/trends of certain Howard County behavioral health indicators (and possibly comparisons with other MD counties)	
Chairperson Updates	Janet attended the virtual meeting for the Commission to Study Mental & Behavioral Health on 3/9/21. Discussions included a presentation by Brian Stettin from the Treatment Advocacy Center on SB928/HB1344 which is proposing changing the danger standard for emergency petitions and commitment. Mental health courts were also discussed in the question and answer session about the presentation.	Action Item: Janet will forward to the Board a link to the meeting and presentation when it is available.
Presentation	<p>Lisa J. Davis, Director, Program Innovation and Student Well-Being - Howard County Public School System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Program Innovation & Student Well-Being works with students, families and community partners to develop educational goals and emotional support so that the student is successful. The Department provides students will social-emotional skills needed to attain academic and career goals. • The Department interacts with students and families using a multi-tiered system of support for mental health. Each tier represents the level of care which supports the student to improve their situation. This program includes the assistance from various staff members, community members and student support teams. Referrals are received through an HCPSS internal program, Canvas. 	Action Item: Tia will forward the HCPSS presentation to the Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pandemic has stopped face-to-face interactions with students and the number of students/families needing support services has increased. The Department has been able to adapt and provide necessary services such as orientation videos to introduce mask wearing rules, social distancing, etc., reminders about school supports when needed and annual suicide prevention training for staff. • Challenges the Department faces includes the families not following up for referred BH supports, families having difficulty assessing BH support due to availability and/or location, lack of insurance, home visits and cultural barriers. • BBH and LBHA can help the Department by providing lower cost insurance options, share lists of providers who offer bilingual or pro bono services, find funding for students to join after school activities and funding a language line for urgent communications. 	
Announcements	None	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 6:19pm	

Next Meeting Dates: April 14, 2021, May 19, 2021, June 9, 2021