

Howard County
Opioid Crisis Community Council
June 2, 2021
5:15-6:45pm
VIA ZOOM – COVID-19

In Attendance:

Barbara Allen, Mark Donovan, Joanie Elder, Sean Ford, Beth Harbison, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, Debbie Nix, Mimi Mathews, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Liesele Wood, Kaymisha Knights, Jama Acuff, Yolanda Vazquez, Rich Gibson, Al Arrington, Corey Bryce.
Guests: Guy Guzzone, Marina Cecchini - representing Sheppard Pratt

Absent: Robin Bartko, Laura Torres, John Way, Joanie Elder

Meeting called to order at 5:17 PM; Katie Dent moved to approve the minutes, Sean Hughes 2nd.
Approved with a minor change for spelling.

Welcome to Senator Guy Guzzone, joining us in his capacity as Director of Community Services for Sheppard Pratt, to talk about their new facility in Howard County. At 156,000 sq ft, the Baltimore Washington campus of Sheppard Pratt has doubled the size of the old Ellicott City facility, which will close. Sheppard Pratt's new facility will provide 85 inpatient hospital beds and will have an urgent care walk-in clinic for psychiatric and behavioral health issues, providing a continuum of care. The 40-acre campus is an 85-bed hospital with inpatient, partial hospital, and crisis mental health services, adult and youth day programs and the walk-in psychiatric urgent care, which is *huge* for the treatment spectrum locally. The Elkridge facility will treat people from the county and around the state with co-occurring disorders or mood disorders; and outpatient programs for people with eating disorders, thought disorders, mood disorders, and child and adolescent mental health services.

Welcome also to SP Chief Administrative Officer Marina Cecchini, a leader in behavioral health for over 30 years. She describes the facility as a healing environment for not only clients but for staff as well. The facility will have five 17-bed units that span the spectrum from adolescence to youth and adults. This safe facility has high tech features and will be a beautiful environment for healing. With the facility located just off I-95 and route 100, there is easy accessibility to major routes of travel. With two gyms, three internal courtyards and electronic access, this facility has taken much into consideration for providing the types of services that people have long needed. We invite you all to join us on June 8th for a group tour of the facility; there will be 3 tours at 7:30 AM, 12 noon, and 5:00 PM. There is also a virtual tour available on our website. The facility will have detox beds and co-occurring units for dual diagnosis patients. At present we do not have a dispensing license for MAT therapy.

Beth H asked about 211 and whether calls will be directed to Sheppard Pratt urgent care. Katie D responded that Grassroots will still get those calls and will direct patients to services at the new facility as needed. Barb asked Guy Guzzone, "what's most exciting about the facility?" Guy stated that to him, it's the acknowledgment that behavioral health is a medical issue needing a holistic approach, one that is becoming more acceptable to talk about and to get folks into treatment.

Barb talked about the lack of a SUD residential treatment facility in Howard County. The plan with Delphi has run into various challenges including resistance from the potential community and existing covenants property identified for a facility. For now Delphi is stepping back, not abandoning future options.

Roe talked about the ASAM levels of treatment 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, and 3.7 D (for detox). Al Arrington talked about the Howard/Tuerk House programs; also, how happy he was to hear about Sheppard Pratt's local expansion. Roe mentioned Hilda's Place, having two houses for women for a total of 16 beds and Howard house having 16 beds for men. Per Roe and Carl Delorenzo, having Howard House and Hilda's Place (ASAM 3.1, 3.5 working on 3.3) as treatment options builds out HC's options for care.

Barb mentioned the states' focus on housing and transportation around crisis services, stating that systems are evolving and much progress has been made over the last several years. Legislative decisions now often consider wraparound services as a part of any discussion. Al Arrington mentioned the success of Howard/Tuerk House and their wrap-around services; stating that continuum of care is essential, having facilities in close proximity and folks having familiarity with the campus is essential for ongoing successful treatment of SUD's.

Marina mentioned that Sheppard Pratt will be contracting to have a needs assessment of community services statewide, as well as Howard County. There is to be another Sheppard Pratt facility in Frederick and they're looking at inpatient treatment possibilities there. Sheppard Pratt has a continued commitment to long term growth in Maryland.

There is a continuing need for adolescent care (including in patient for behavioral health 12 to 18 year olds not only in HC but across the State. A reminder that the Phoenix Recovery High school for teens in recovery is open in Frederick.

There is the age old problem of resistance to information before it is needed by our HC residents. Within behavioral health/co-occurring disorders, how do we break that chain of waiting for crisis before reacting or before becoming educated. Marina mentioned using social media for resourcing reaching people where they are; Beth H mentioned Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter and more.

More 211 pocket guides have been ordered – contact Kamisha at the HCHD for more. Liesele announced that she will be leaving the HCHD for her new job as FT mom!

Joan S, HC DrugFree, mentioned there is a strong demand for senior week classes from HC DrugFree. Parents were clamoring for this class with many students traveling to Ocean City for senior week while breaking free from the pandemic isolation experienced over the last 15 months.

Barb mentioned ROSC and OCCC and their future evolution-where do we go from here? There is a collaborative group of members of both beginning to look at this, begins August 3rd.

Barbara reached out to the county executive's office, and they're still very interested in our continuing our work. Barb has asked for increased communication with the CoEx office and asked Carl DeLorenzo to see if County Executive Calvin Ball can meet with the OCCC soon. Membership from county agencies on the OCCC continues to be a challenge. FRS and police department have stepped away do to due to budgetary constraints (impact to overtime pay). Both agencies remain interested in participating and helping where they can.

Debbie asked about the IOAD; Barb said it is still virtual this year and she asked for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Debbie Nix

APPROVED