

**Howard County
Opioid Crisis Community Council**

**January 2, 2019 5:15-6:45pm
Columbia/Ellicott Room George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 Call in: 410.313.1141**

Individuals Present: Barbara Allen, Maria Bernadzikowski, Flora Betro, Theresa Collins, Mark Donovan, Joanie Elder, Marianne Gibson, Sean Hughes, Mimi Matthews, Chris McCabe, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Dwayne Sumpter, Laura Torres, Joan Webb Scornaiechi, Caryn Lasser, Alexandra Podolny, Brian Writt, Eric Kruhm, Cindy Johnson, Robin Rynn

Note Taker: Samantha Durbin

Meeting Minutes:

- Meeting began at 5:16pm
- Welcome - Chair, Barbara Allen: recap of how the OCCC came to be.
- Introductions around the room
- Approval of minutes from December meeting:
 - Wording changed-
 - waiting for new State's Attorney Office representative to OCCC to be named.
 - Replace "the" with "three" in discussion of key focuses from MD Health Secretary Nealle
 - Motion to accept: Mimi Mathews; Second: Joanie Elder
 - Minutes approved at 5:22pm
- Updates and announcements:
 - Joanne Wuver-Saukas left the council due to health concerns; she remains on contact list for continuing interest.
 - Health Department Announcement- Please do not use the promotional materials from the "one overdose too many" campaign also known as the 'Arm' Campaign for the time being
 - Barbara recently sent out 2 items
 - The latest updates from the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC)
 - Opioid Crisis Fund overview for FY19
 - Report from Steve Shuh, new Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC)
 - OD map of reporting overdose information is attached for you to download
 - Discusses hospital opioid response levels of care in Baltimore City
 - Levels of care within treatment
 - New Term to Share - 'Sobering Services'
 - On the continuum of care for stabilization: After an overdose these services offer a safe place to sober up, get a warm meal, shower, laundry before

making a more informed decision on what next steps should be. Average length of stay is 16 hours.

- Term used around country, for example Baltimore Stabilization Center is intended to be place where you stabilize and do not need to go to ED.
- Baltimore Stabilization Center is housed at Tuerk House. Clients are often referred to Tuerk House for inpatient care. The Stabilization Center has some 13 other locations that take referrals for further treatment.
- Baltimore Stabilization Center is a pilot that can be used for all jurisdictional levels. For example, today you can do walk-ins at the Grassroots, but at the Baltimore Stabilization Center you cannot do a walk in. There are new definitions of what is a *referral* versus *walk ins*. For example, if an EMT determined best place is stabilization center, then it is a *referral* and the community is okay with that. The community said no to walk ins.
- Multiple deterrents in this system. Example, you have to come in under BCRI (organization that Baltimore County hired to do these calls). They only send ALS not BLS teams. There are a limited number of ALS teams. Another deterrent is the 19-point criteria. If a person does not match criteria, they are not qualified to go to the stabilization center and must go to the ED.
- Programs are currently in place, working with these 11 hospitals that are mentioned in report that Chair Allen sent out today. They have established protocols for how they are collaborating with hospitals.
- In 2016, Legislature mandated Behavioral Health Advisory Council do report on crisis services. Given to the MD legislature December 2017, in 2018 Legislature accepted report and approved 10 stabilization centers. Money and funding are there.
- HoCo Health Department submitted proposal 6 months ago with a short 24 hours to turn it around. Still waiting for response from BHA. Supposed to be put into effect this month. Unfortunately, there are lots of roadblocks in the system.
- With any funding, there is an end point that it needs to be spent by, the longer time passes, the shorter time there will be to spend.
- **Council Education Moments**
 - Michael Baier, MDH, Prevention is being rescheduled.
 - Roe and Cindy discussed Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) Board
 - Under the Health Department
 - On June 30th, 2018, ADAAB- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Board and the Howard County Mental Health Authority Board ended.
 - The LBHA (LBH Authority) integrates both of these issues and began on July 1, 2018, prior to that Local Addiction Authority (LAA) and Mental Health Authority was the Core Service Agency (CSA).
 - Across state in MD each county has either a LBHA, LAA, or CSA. The State goal is to have LAA and CSA's integrated; some remain separate in organization but act in an integrated fashion.

- LBHA Board-Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board
 - Many people in this room are part of the Board
 - 10 ex officio members
 - 18 members
 - 28 total members
 - Currently 5 vacancies- Send Resume and Cover Letter to Roe
 - Discussion on Duties and Responsibilities
 - Breakdown of appointed members
 - 7 are family members of an individual who has experienced a behavioral health condition
 - 3 family members of individuals with mental health condition
 - 3 family members of individuals with substance use disorder
 - 1 from either
 - 7 consumers of treatment
 - 3,3, 1
 - 2 members are professional/provider/advocates
 - 1, 1
 - 2 members general public
 - 1,1 (Or both)
 - DSS, Public Defender's Office, DCRS, State Attorney's Office, Detention Center, Police Department, Circuit Court, DJS, Parole and Probation, and HCPSS are also present as ex officio
 - Developed starting Wednesday, January 9th (becomes active when they vote)
 - Need to be sure that our OCCC actions work with the LBHA board.
- **Committee Updates**
 - Quick update regarding presentation from November with James LaMon and Tempe Bealle, HCPSS.
 - They discussed the importance of education past 9th grade
 - However, Start Talking Act requires curriculum through 12th grade
 - It is mandated, but being implemented as an elective option and not required
 - This has been elevated to legislative discussion point.
 - Challenge is how to implement more fully
 - Enforcement and Adjudication Committee - Theresa
 - No action report; Mimi Mathews will now be on this committee
 - Business Committee - Flora
 - Chamber Luncheon
 - Date: Wednesday, January 30th 11am-1:30pm at the Holiday Inn

- It will be during a normal chamber luncheon which typically gets a lot of participation.
 - Member price is \$60, and Nonmembers are \$80 for lunch and program
 - Since Flora is a member she is able to get the \$60 cost and can get a table (tables of 10) for OCCC members
 - Please contact Flora if you plan on attending by Monday, January 21st
 - More information regarding Chamber Luncheon:
 - Moderator Zach Snitzer- Director of Business and Development for Maryland Addiction Recovery Center (MARC)
 - In long term recovery, employs people in recovery
 - Panelist 1: Attorney: James Fagan- Labor and Employment
 - Lawyer for employment issues – Liability, resources
 - Panelist 2: Bob Claire- Mobern Lighting; hires folks in recovery
 - Need to make sure audience knows what is being done re: crisis. We have to keep it interesting- fast moving, really good info for business community
 - Panelist 3: Still waiting for someone from Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR)
 - If you have any suggestions on questions - let Barbara know
 - This is an excellent way to get more feedback and to learn from the types of questions
 - Goal is to educate and hopefully have future opportunities ie. MBIA
 - Materials are allowed on the tables- maybe could create a take away for learning more, might need approval first
 - Fran Trout (February guest) is part of chamber and could be good connection and might be able to contact people who attend and are interested, need to make sure she is aware of this luncheon, this can help facilitate next steps.
 - Barbara will send out to the group for us to share
 - Please share to as many people as you can. Would love to fill that room
 - If you decide to register on your own, in the memo section put “Flora’s table” for the \$60 cost
 - If there are other employers who are hiring those in send Barbara the info so we can have that on hand for future events/programs.
 - \$2M grant was given to MD through the DLLR to educate and encourage employers to hire those in recovery.
- Communications Committee
 - Did not meet since the last OCCC
 - Now have 3 people instead of 4 - please let Barbara or Sean know if you would like to be part of this committee.
 - Have had some discussions on themes and intend to have a draft communication plan for committee review prior to sharing with the full Council.

- Wellness Issue by Howard Magazine - no articles in December about opioid issues and what the county is doing
 - Want to make sure we are not missing opportunities
 - Need to circle back with Howard Magazine for future reference
- Wellness newsletter to County employees each month would be good opportunity to communicate
- Treatment and Recovery Committee
 - Summary of Chrysalis House Visit
 - Beth typed up and Barbara will send out
 - Update from Chrysalis House
 - Chrysalis house does relapse prevention during the holidays since it can be a stressful time
 - On New Year's Day, Chrysalis house had 6 group meetings- speakers coming in and individual panels, provided food, demonstrating that you can have fun and meaning outside of substance use.
 - Chrysalis House did not lose anyone over the holidays!
 - Winter is a challenging time - Lack of sunlight and lack of things to look forward to especially after the holidays.
 - The need does not end after the holidays, in fact it usually needed more after holidays
- Prevention Committee
 - Did not have a chance to meet formally since the last meeting
 - Overview from Brian Witt, guest, from Ancillary Health/ Better Treatments
 - Has been in healthcare field for around 30 years
 - Help doctors with businesses and how to educate doctors on this crisis
 - Educate and Highlight on Alternative, non-addictive, treatments to try.
 - Alternatives- Acupuncture, anything that can alleviate pain for the patient/ problem without opioid
 - He has observed a disconnect between payers and pharmacy, Stakeholders
 - Working with different manufactures
 - Recruiting doctors to be stakeholders - going to the source
 - Works with anyone who can prescribe opioids.
 - Health department has new program- 6 week program on how to manage pain using alternatives
 - Health department met with school system
 - Opportunity to fund program to help identify students at risk for substance use disorder
 - New offering of Guiding Good Choices: 4 Tuesdays in March 6-8:30 Elkridge library, advertising going out, started to send out.
- Other Discussions:
 - Question about treatment

- Discussion on possible communication targeted to those suffering from substance use disorder about shame and stigma to encourage them to seek help.
- Society at large needs to understand the importance of no shame and stigma because it can get in the way of people receiving the proper help
- It is clear that help is hard to find when a person is lost in the disease
- Treatment/Outpatient Housing in Howard/Baltimore
 - Discussion on challenges with housing and treatment options in Howard County
 - When people begin treatment, they might not be homeless, but if/when no longer are working can't afford housing
 - PHP (partial hospitalization program) that house and don't charge from 9 days to 6 months and sometimes longer
 - There is a variety of ways this is done throughout the state
 - There is a specific need for those who are homeless, IOP (intensive outpatient program) and PHP but needs housing
 - Trying to find out how other programs are getting it done
 - The real estate housing costs in Howard County is an obstacle.
 - This issue falls in treatment and recovery
- Discussion on transition housing
 - Free housing for 3-6 months, but somewhere in that process they need to find a room and a job
 - Can we get some of these treatment facilities in Howard county that can afford this?
- Kim Wireman – scheduled for February meeting.
 - Head of Powell Recovery
 - Runs housing facilities in Baltimore City, Lives in Ellicott City
 - She would be a rich resource for this meeting to talk about her experience.
 - Group homes- free of any rent
 - Business model- reimbursement for their services
 - Trying to understand the options
 - Statewide resource
- Discussion on stigma as barrier
 - How are we able to get these people the information?
 - Showing that people care, helps to break down that barrier
 - Our actions should be to identify barriers to putting housing in place, then we can start working through. Need to think about what is necessary to overcome this for future meetings.
- Bernard Foster- Executive Director of Tuerk House - have him at a future meeting
- If anyone knows of any vacant houses in Howard County- appeal to owners to make donation or reduce cost for the cause
 - Howard House moving to Ellicott City; County owned property. Being converted to 8-bedroom facility (16 beds). January 17th completion date

- Meeting Adjourn at 6:50pm
 - Mark Motioned; Flora second

NOTE: Please send fliers to all for announcements ahead of the meeting.

Future Dates:

February 6, 2019

March 6, 2019

April 3, 2019

May 1, 2019

June 5, 2019

July 3, 2019

Dates for second half of year TBD.

Months Remaining to Accomplish Goals: 15

OCCC

APPROVED