

## HOWARD COUNTY

### Opioid Crisis Community Council

September 4, 2019 5:15 – 6:45 pm Columbia/Ellicott Room,  
George Howard Building  
3420 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Call in: **605.468.8005 code: 195587#**

#### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Flora Betro, Theresa Collins, Mark Donovan, Joanie Elder, Sean Ford, Beth Harbinson, Sean Hughes, Cindy Johnson, James LeMon, Chris McCabe, Debbie Nix, Anna Park, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Laura Torres, John Way, David Sabat (new replacing James Brothers), Liesele Wood, Dwayne Sumpter, Robin Bartko, Beth Schmidt, Bruce MacDonald. On the phone: no call-ins.

5:17 pm Meeting called to order.

Welcome to HCFRS Battalion Chief David Sabat who is replacing James Brothers!

Minutes of August meeting presented; Cindy moved to approve the August 7th meeting minutes, Joanie seconded; approved as submitted.

August 31, IOAD event was another success. Kudos to the men of Howard House, the presenters, vendors, our host St. John's Episcopal Church and all involved. Chris McCabe commented that the event was well done, from the program to the speakers to the layout – "excellent."

#### Announcements:

- September 21, ROSC Recovery Walk 10-1, Ellicott City Assembly of God, 10600 Frederick Rd. Live music, exhibitors – please share flyers with your networks.
- September is Recovery Month – the SAMHSA website is a great resource for information and materials.
- September 26 – MHFA class, HCGH. John Way reports that the MHFA leader's class is FULL!
- James LeMon reports on HCPSS – MS and HS, HCDrugFree will be showing its video during Back to School nights. The admin is looking into a "Tall Cop" or "Threats in Plain Sight" type of event with HCPD to bring to the schools.

Update regarding request from COEX in preparation for residential treatment facility:

**As requested, Barbara did some research on how to deal with NIMBY issues.** Primary source was Zach Snitzer of MARC (Maryland Addiction Recovery Center). They have several facilities open in Baltimore County, one in N. Virginia and working on new residential in PA. MARC hired the "formost NIMBY" attorney for advice. He said you can do what you what without permission because it is a legal right. And/or you can elicit support in a variety of ways for the

surrounding areas. In their recovery housing unit, they did snow removal for neighbors as an example of one means of supporting the community. This has been used elsewhere because it allows neighbors to meet residents and staff. It is important to have an information plan to share as project is being developed and then an additional plan for how the facility will be managed once opened. Taking the “good neighbor” approach they had zero complaints after first 6 months of operation. Now they’ve been there for several years, just part of the neighborhood.

The attorney recommended a “memorandum of facts and intentions”. Could include hours of operation, no loitering, low traffic, no partying, no crowds, facts of services provided and not included. There is something about “legalese” that calms concerns down. And, it provides facts that can be observed by neighbors. Point out the need for this form of care within the community; residents prefer local care vs. out of county or state particularly parents. Treatment is more effective when families are involved. Can eliminate unnecessary long distance travel for family members when treatment is local. Example: if a person is suffering stage 4 cancer, having family around matters a great deal.

Include: Why treatment works; how treatment helps the community by using experts – medical, financial, law enforcement to show reduction in crime, \$ savings to the community in such ways. (EMS repeatedly is costly; ER time is costly; treatment is more cost effective.) Anything that shows reduction in tax burden is a bonus. The fallacy that property values go down has been proved erroneous. In fact, quoting a recently article, often property values go up. More services locally, reduced crime, etc can positively impact property values.

**Scope:** The County has committed to Delphi Behavioral Health Group \$4M over 3 years which allocates 21 of 60 beds for Howard County residents. Location still TBA; we will likely know by end of calendar year according to David Stup of Delphi. David also indicated Delphi does have an implementation plan but he is not ready to delved into that yet. Stay tuned.

We talked about the need to inform and educate the community on the WHY and HOW of services to be provided rather than to promote Delphi (a for-profit organization). Ideas discussed to help with education and outreach ahead of the location announcement were:

- Community film screening w/panel of experts similar to MH film screening held in 2018,
- PSA with neighborhoods (rather than zip codes), recovery, education, awareness.
- Targeted training on MHFA, community outreach.
- Use of folks from the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center (MCRC) to help with community outreach. Cindy suggested getting information from MCRC that was used for the redistricting effort.
- Saturate the immediate community around the facility – outreach to HOA’s, Community resources, use of County Council e-newsletters and email list serves.
- Community forums – outline of a plan to be developed for use when date of opening is determined.
- Meet and Greet with the OCCC – perhaps an event (could be held at Kahler Hall/Harper’s Choice) to talk with interested attendees – intended for all county; not merely that area only.

James LeMon offered his resource spreadsheet of non-profits and others as a resource for outreach and communication.

Sean Hughes asked about whether we wanted to have the communication about the treatment center be county-wide vs. targeted saturation. Sees our role to educate, inform the community on the urgent need for treatment HERE and NOW, in-county. Suggests that we get a “memorandum of facts and intentions” from provider. (This idea is one recommended by MARC who used this in opening its facilities in Baltimore County.) Being an attorney, this is something he is very familiar with. Sees a definite role of the provider in education and awareness.

Flora Betro suggests our message must include the “why’s” and how the lack of treatment in-county impacts the community already.

Joanie Elder talked about working to shatter the stigma around treatment and the importance of the continuum of care, in-county.

Laura Torres says we must define treatment for the community – what does treatment look like in my community? Talk about it as a *journey*, not just a 14-28 day sprint.

Cindy also commented about the need for layering the message around eliminating stigma – needs to reflect the positive impacts to the community of folks being in treatment and coming back home.

Sean H. – We need a clear, one sentence message that can be easily reinforced and repeated.

James offers his HCPSS “partner” database to the OCCC for outreach efforts.

Mark Donovan talked about the effectiveness of a previous grass-roots effort to change the mindset around starting the school year later – he said they were effective by showing people how this change would affect “ME”.

Beth Schmidt suggested that the HCPD come to talk about crime reduction, why the community should care about having treatment in-county.

Two items of note – CE Ball has announced his desire to open a women’s recovery house in the county within 6 months. Barbara has heard that this could be an Oxford House which would be new to HC.

#### **UPDATES:**

**Robin** provided several neighborhood names for PSA within Columbia. Still need names for “outer” Howard County.

Theresa Collins said the JIS meeting took place in August. No specific action items were determined.

**Request:** We discussed having a list of members willing to serve as a Speakers Bureau for the COEX. Folks are to let Barbara know (via email) who is willing to serve on a speaker's bureau and specify your topical areas that could be covered.

Regarding a movie series being hosted, Barbara mentioned the Rotary Club and their movie series that were held through HCC. An option? Robin Bartko will check with the Horizon Foundation for their plans, process and recommendations. Also she'll see what resides in their library of films, if we could access them, etc.

Flora Betro reports that MBIA event will still go on, has been moved from Kahler Hall to the Maple Lawn meeting space. Need bodies in seats – please sign up. Lincoln Tech is interested a pilot program about SUD. These will be smaller, brown bag or seminar type events. She'll get more info and report back.

**Request:** Continue to bring forward ideas around the in-patient recovery location announcement and how we might support informing HC residents.

Next OCCC meeting will be Wednesday, October 2 at the George Howard Building, 5:15 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.