

HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council
March 4, 2020
5:15-6:45pm
Columbia/Ellicott Room
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
Call in: 605.468.8005 code: 195587# ***

In Attendance: Barbara Allen, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Liesele Wood, Cindy Johnson, Eric Kruhm, Robin Bartko, Sean Hughes, Teron Powell, Beth Harbinson, Ana Park, Katie Dant, Mark Donovan, Jessica Matthews, Jack Matthews, Mimi Mathews, and Debbie Nix

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

Introductions were made. Barbara thanked John Way for taking the minutes at the February meeting. Mark Donovan moved that they be accepted as presented and Joan Webb Scornaienchi seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements

Beth H. announced that Barbara Allen had been nominated and was to be inducted into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame on Thursday evening March 26th at 7 pm here in the George Howard Building. All are invited to celebrate this honor with Barbara.

Robin announced that on March 28th at 10 am Top Tier Fitness would host a session about Special Education and rights after these students turn 18 years of age.

Teron discussed a recent Peer Support team meeting to learn about community resources and asked everyone for input about how they can best continue to learn about services available in the county.

A conversation ensued about the availability of a consistent, updated and accurate list of providers. It was noted that the Health Department maintains this list but is a very large PDF which isn't easy to use.

The Network of Care also maintains the information. Many feel it is difficult to navigate. Several providers talked about how to update information on the site. Within 24 to 48 hours after submissions of edits and updates are usually approved by the Health Department and the site is updated. Kayla (HCHD) will be asked to send information out regarding the process for updates and additions.

It was also mentioned that there is no mobile phone version of the Network of Care site and that this is a barrier for many. There is a bill before the state general assembly to revamp and improve access to all health information.

Barbara was asked about legislation and promised to send a list of some current, relevant bills to the committee for review and potential support and advocacy – bills of significance to the issues we are tracking..

Teron is currently working with Sen. McCray on OTP bills and shared that the one moving forward was "legal and made sense". It was noted that other bills related to this issue were dropped and probably

presented in the first place to appease constituents. The bill requires only a safety and community relations plan.

Barbara announced that a Recovery House Workgroup is being formed in the state to deal with issues like house managers dictating dosage for MAT along with arbitrarily limiting the number of MAT beds in a house receiving state and/or federal funds. Numerous issues will be addressed.

As the Executive Order creating and defining the OCCC is expiring March 30th, Barbara – with the support of Sean H. and Cindy - is working with Carl DeLorenzo to see this administrative piece taken care of.

Committee Reports

Beth Harbinson reported out for the **Treatment Committee**. The committee conversation around how to spend the \$9,700 allocation included 3 suggestions but also concurred that the OCCC should look at all proposals before allocating funds to a particular initiative. The committee fully supports spending money on the projects that will have the most impact.

The three potential projects include:

1. Funding more EBP classes (evidence based programs).
2. Funding assessments and treatment for students referred for assistance; and
3. Streamlining access to reliable, comprehensive information about treatment and prevention IN-STATE

A conversation followed about the current state of EBP trainings. Joan and Cindy are doing Guiding Good Choices (GGC). Ana and Chong of My Life Foundation are as well. These four are the only ones of over 20 people trained by HCHD who are holding and facilitating classes even though the Health Department required those being trained to do so. Roe mentioned the Health Department should at least get the materials back since they cost around \$1,000.

In addition, it was noted that the publisher of materials for these GGC is not making the facilitator guide available in Spanish and that there was a need for training in the Spanish-speaking community. It was mentioned that since the materials for participants were available that a translator could facilitate. It was also mentioned that other non-English speaking populations should be served as well.

Jack M. then discussed a program called Teen Intervene currently being held at Homewood and Patapsco Valley MS. Their respective health department wellness centers have referred students and Jack felt it was a good program but that parents also need to be sent. There are three sessions that center around behavior modification and the third meeting is designed to be held with parents. It was also noted that there are students from 46 countries speaking 8 different languages at Patapsco Valley making things even more challenging from a communications perspective.

Handle With Care is another program currently being used and operates between the police department and schools. When an underage child is involved in an incident or is witness to an incident, their name is given discreetly to the schools and administration and staff are notified that the student should be “handled with care” for a period of time. <https://handlewithcaremd.org/>

Teron reported for the **Adjudication and Enforcement Committee**.

The First Responder event now has a partner – ROSC! A budget is being prepared in coordination with ROSC and Flora is exploring business sponsorship of the event.

When Carroll County started this event, 500 people attended first year, and they have downsized it. One of the intentions is to connect people who have been revived with their first responder. This is a collaborative event and other OCCC committees will be involved.

Other events coming up were announced including the Softball Tournament and Recovery Walks.

Liesele reported for the **Prevention Committee** saying they have a desire to expand trainings for Mental Health First Aid and Guiding Good Choices and that additional language materials and trainers are needed. John Way is conducting several Mental Health First Aid trainings for veterans.

Barbara mentioned that the Teen Trailer will come to Howard County and that she is exploring their schedule availability. The trailer is staffed by retired DEA agents. Joan mentioned that HCDF has props that support this learning opportunity and the Teen Trailer experience is great for kids and parents. She suggested that the trailer come to a Drug Takeback Day event since this was sponsored by the DEA.

Beth H. suggested that we look for a way to get the trailer to the Recovery Walk or Overdose Awareness Day so that there is a draw to these events for the general public.

Liesele asked for anyone who was interested in joining her committee to reach out to her. Barbara will send us an updated list of committee members.

Sean reported for the **Communications Committee**. They are recommending two possible programs for funding – a Speakers Bureau and 2 Community Forums where we would be available to speak to the community about our work and county resources. In addition, the committee is continuing to focus on information needing dissemination. They were all out of the pocket guides (211 brochures). Liesele reported that 10,000 more were on the way and that she is ordering more as well.

Mimi asked how we gauged the impact of this material and its distribution.

Robin reported that high school guidance counselors were using these.

Debbie suggested again that we investigate getting a sticker on the cover of the Business Monthly and Columbia Flier publications and run a series of 211 ads. Barbara is soliciting for businesses who might support this cost and Joan suggested that these should be free if they were requested by the State as public service announcements. Liesele mentioned that MPT has a budget to work on this type of advertising. Jessica mentioned the Clarksville community service flier and other free publications as possible options to spread the word.

Barbara mentioned that peer recover specialists were having the biggest job growth in the country in terms of occupations.

Cindy mentioned that the drug court graduation was on the same date (May 6) and at the same time as our next meeting and invited us all to attend.

Upcoming meeting dates are:

2020

April 1
May 6

2021

January 6
February 3

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

March 3

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Harbinson

APPROVED