

HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council
April 1, 2020
5:15-6:45pm
ZOOM Meeting/COVID-19

In attendance: Barbara Allen, Corey Bryce, Mark Donovan, Teron Powell, Debbie Nix, Jennifer McCann, Laura Torres, Robin Bartko, John Way, Roger Hoff, Jack Kavanaugh, Liesele Wood, Cindy Johnson, Roe Bonaccorsy, Katie Dant, Teresa Collins, Beth Harbinson, Sean Hughes, Joanie Elder, Beth Schmidt, Mimi Mathews, Joan Webb Scorneichi, Flora Betro, Dr. Robin Toler, Ana Park.

Meeting called to order at **5:15** pm.

Introductions and welcome to Dr. Robin Toler who has joined the OCCC. She is on staff at HCGH. Board certified in psychiatry, with her focus in addiction medicine; she is licensed to prescribe MAT.

Minutes from March meeting were discussed and tabled until May meeting for vote.

UPDATES – Impact of COVID-19-

Katie: Grassroots – working from home, walk-ins being screened for COVID-19, donations welcome (gift cards best).

Mark D: Congruent – IOP's are ongoing via tele-health, Zoom meetings for therapy groups and counseling. Most staff are teleworking. Working on logistics re: legal signatures on documents for billing, compliance.

Jennifer, Kolmac – Outpatient has converted 100% to tele-health.

Roe B: HCHD – HD is the lead agency with the COVID 19 response. Website has data, information including Behavioral Health info related to the COVID-19 response. HD is working with the county's JIS group (Joint Information Sharing committee) to push out information to the public. Testing is up and running for those doctor referral at the Emissions Testing Station in Columbia and at HCGH. Coronavirus Info Line - 410-313-6284. BHAinquiries@maryland.gov

Liesele, HCHD – Narcan distribution with take homes through MAT providers. Requests for Narcan from providers may be arranged for picked up @HCHD. Peers still working in hospitals, harm reduction peers working as well. Liesele has Detera bags and LOTS of 211 cards to distribute. Liesele is working to connect with folks who are still out and

interfacing with the public. Debbie suggests connecting with Columbia Community Care, a volunteer group that is working to bridge food insecurity for families in Columbia at 5 HCPSS sites.

Laura T: HCGH – SBIRT screening has been implemented at ER since Feb 25th; embedded peer calls patients in ED M-F. Follow-up post discharge by peers as well. Roe stated that the peers are happy with the program to date.

Theresa C: HCPD – Non fatal OD's are down 15% YTD. Fatal OD's are up by 2. Commented that the illicit supply chain for heroin, fentanyl has been interrupted by COVID -19.

Beth H: SOBAR/Advocate – recovery community has moved to online meetings. Social media playing a big part in how folks share details of meetings dates, times. Scary time for those early in recovery; some may not feel comfortable joining an online meeting.

Beth S: MCF/Advocate – Facilities are closed to families, staff teleworking. Online support groups. Feedback has been positive.

Ana Park: My Way Foundation – will convert meetings/classes to online options.

Jack Kavanaugh: Detention Center – No reported cases of COVID-19 to date. MAT on goal; reduced staff stopping classes and group meetings for the time being. No problem doing social distancing. Added recreational activities. Intakes for arrests are down 70%. Facility has been completely cleaned and inmates are participating in this effort.

Joan S: HCDrugFree – Working to get Guiding Good Choices, Middle School Life skills and Parenting classes online. Some copyright issues with GGC information but that is being resolved. Joan asked for feedback about continuing to push out information via their e-newsletter with the vast amounts of information parents and others are now getting electronically. Suggestions that they continue their efforts with brief focused messaging.

Corey B: Oxford House – 1st house opened in HC on March 1. MH and recovery stress is evident. No one is being removed or asked to leave b/c of inability to pay.

Joanie: Donleigh House – Many of the men in the house are concerned about working in environments that might be unsafe. The men in the house are living in the spirit of “we”. Ensuring no one feels isolated in the group living dynamic.

Robin Bartko, Wellness Coach – Parents anxiety and stress are up due to schooling concerns. Robin is giving out the 211 cards “virtually” by email and text.

John Way, The VA Way – Offers access to a van for hire for anyone needing to move or transport goods. Mental Health First Aide classes have been cancelled; new training in April will be completely online. John has 200 doses of syringe-based Narcan for anyone that needs some.

In closing, the May meeting will also be done via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted: Debbie Nix

APPROVED