

**HOWARD COUNTY  
Opioid Crisis Community Council  
October 6, 2020**

**5:15-6:45pm  
ZOOM Meeting/COVID-19**

**In Attendance:** Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Liesele Wood, Barbara Allen, Teron Powell, Christina Castro (for D. Sabat), Debbie Nix, Mark Donovan, Corey Boyce, James LeMon, Katie Dant, Jack Kavanagh, Theresa Collins, Cindy Johnson, Miriam Mathews, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Beth Schmidt, Laura Torres, Robin Bartko, Joanie Elder, Beth Harbinson and Sean Hughes.

**MINUTES**

A correction on the first page of the minutes was made. Corrected the spelling of Steve Shuh's name. Letters changed to "ED" after the HCGH reference on page 1.

September 2020 minutes were presented. Laura Torres moved to accept and Teron Powell seconded. Minutes were approved.

**UPDATES HCPSS**

Barbara asked James LeMon to give us some HCPSS updates. School will be virtual until the end of January at this point. 59,000 students and 6,000 staff are virtual.

1:1 Chromebook ratio by end of school year. Orders backed up. Making sure kids that are most vulnerable with priority last year given to all K – 5. 48% Middle School. By end of 1Q – 100% and High school by year end. Comcast has been outstanding helping with hotspots as well as providing over 485 vouchers for individual family needs. Bright Minds Foundation has been a huge help as well.

98% of students have participated in at least 1 activity, therefore marked present.

Community Health Reps/social workers are working virtually with children and families with student support teams present at all schools.

1.5 M meals served since COVID started. 50,000 in the first week of school to date. Students can pick up breakfast and can also go at lunch. Families can pick up for other people as well. All but two schools have food sites.

The school systems have also developed thru Dr. Cynthia A. Schulmeyer a "What to Look For" list to teachers so they can be aware when they observe things that may need attention.

Debbie thanked James for allowing Columbia Community Cares to partner with the schools and use their properties. Sean thanked James for the hard work that the school system had done to deal with the myriad of issues they have had to face.

Robin asked about parents with children with challenges such as ADHD and Asperger's who need more support. The higher need students have someone coming in through the schools but parents with children with ADD or ADHD may be struggling. James said their first option is to contact the principal for specific information available through that school. That HCPSS is working on this and that small groups

of these students may be the first to come into the schools in small groups to get this help. Also connecting them to resources within the county to help.

Laura asked James about how the school system might support families struggling with substance abuse issues and asked if we could incorporate any of our info we want to get to parents into their communication. Perhaps at food pick up? Beth S. also suggested we get information into parents' hands.

James said the schools are working through the school support team on the Canvas site to access resources. They were trained to look here for resources. Community News Website – he will send us a link – is an area where we can get our information posted. This goes out weekly to the Principals, but they then choose what to send to parents.

Beth H. told James that our committee was looking for ways we could systematically and directly get information into the hands of parents. She reiterated that there was a need for this information to get out as this was a pandemic much like COVID.

Barbara concluded that the schools were doing a lot but that there was much more that we wanted to see done. It appears the general process for getting information into the schools remains the same. This continues to be a source of frustration especially given the reality of substance use disorder in the County.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Barbara shared that the Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) is being reassigned under the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Though they continue to report to the Governor, the change officially results in the OOCC reporting to Robert Neale, MD Secretary of Health. Do not panic – they are still operating. This change makes sense given the nature of their focus on behavioral health.

Flora has resigned from the council due to changes in her work. She is grateful for her time on the Council and thanks all for her time with us.

John Way cannot be here as he is dealing with end of life issues with his mother and uncle.

Sent revised Executive Order to Carl DeLorenzo. On hold because of things going on in his world.

Roe mentioned HCHD is launching sterile syringe RV services November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Look for the RV in the parking lot area closest to the Stamford Grill. Will potentially have it out in the community.

Also, LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program is starting in Howard County. Stayed tuned for more information. The HCHD is putting together a Behavioral Health summit with Aetna over a 5 month period starting mid-November mid-month on Wednesdays at noon. Fliers will go out soon.

Liesele added that campaigns of Fentanyl are Deadly and Peer Support materials are ready. Will be available for email, posting on FB as well as printed materials for distribution.

Joan thanked everyone for for distributing campaign materials for medication and sharps collection (take back day) and asked that people please spread the word. She and Cindy are working again on a series of parent classes (Guiding Good Choices) starting October 22<sup>nd</sup>. On HCDF Facebook page for sharing.

Debbie asked if Joan had heard of Volunteens? Perhaps they would help Joan and Cindy distribute.

### **FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY**

Barbara shared the planning document so we could see the OCCC and ROSC collaboration and intersection.

Teron shared that the groups (OCCC and ROSC) had collaborated to keep their foot on the gas to ensure all details for the event are professionally managed. Making sure the focus is correct and does not get watered down and that the OCCC owns the event. We want this to be visible to our HC community.

As this grows in years to come, we may hand it off to ROSC when the OCCC concludes. OCCC members need to volunteer to help. The event will be live streamed so everyone can be involved at some level.

Barbara shared that Governor Hogan had been invited; we await confirmation. The event is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

The committee is creating Certificates of Recognition. 9:30 event is with CE, Chiefs – PD, FRS, Sheriff, and Detention. Still working out the number of folks who will be there due to COVID.

Main location is the George Howard Building. 30-minute presentation then people at other locations would present certificates. Yard signs for stations. Barbara is submitting a plan to Carl for funds. Total cost is estimated to be \$300 at this time.

Jack asked how it would work for 17 locations to be included. Barbara said there would probably be 4 – 5 locations. These would be immediately after 30 minute ceremony at the George Howard building. Certificates of Recognition will be presented at each location; these would be happening concurrently at each location. Immediately following pictures taken at the various sites are be emailed to Lisa DeHernandez at HCHD. She will be putting a slide show together so the event(s) get out to the community.

Joanie asked how we could allow people to show their appreciation. Beth S said when they did the event in Carroll County, they found someone in recovery that was saved by FRS. They could meet the person who saved them and show that they now have a wonderful life. Beth H suggested this could be pre-recorded and included in the event.

Debbie also suggested that people could be involved by having red balloons out to support first responders. Beth S said this would be awesome and people feed off of one another. Joanie said we might use another color pre-election. Barbara said we might use R, W and B or purple. Debbie said she liked purple because of the connotation that color has in relation to the OCCC and Opioid crisis.

Teron suggested we include Lisa DeHernandez, Scott Peterson (COEX PR) in the conversation about the video, and/or about the Governor's presentation to be included later.

Lots of committee members volunteered to help at the event itself and to create a Facebook Page for the event, etc.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Roe and Barbara discussed additional funding resources that are becoming available from the Federal government (SAMSHA). Barbara said the MD budget hearings will be interesting in terms of the impact of COVID. These General Assembly hearings are open for anyone interested.

Teron shared that data recently made available shows the numbers are not favorable. 64% jump in overdose deaths in Howard County, for example. This reminds us that the work we have been doing and continue to do is critical. Relapses, new drugs of choice and now stimulants – cocaine and fentanyl together – is exploding across the country and here in Howard County as well.

Barbara will forward this data. She sent information from this week's meeting of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health; she will continue to send any information to all.

Debbie noticed that the CE posted about "constructing a new treatment center"; she found language interesting since it is not yet under way.

Roe mentioned hearing a change regarding use of the "211 press 1" program. Instead folks were encouraged to refer callers to the local crisis number. For HC this is our Grassroots Crisis Center. Katie indicated that given how the system currently works, they do get a vast majority of calls coming in via the 211 system. So for HC, we might not experience much change. However, many of us in our various work outside OCCC as well as our OCCC efforts have focused heavily on promoting 211 press 1 campaigns.

Joanie said that this is ridiculous and ironic. 211 is easy and can be remembered. Many present have invested years on this issue – families in crisis are not going to remember or perhaps even know their local crisis number. This is a key issue for OCCC efforts. Barbara will research for more information.

Roe was to use existing materials and make updates at the next printing. Sean suggested we tell the folks in charge the impact of this decision.

### **VIA CHAT – Information captured:**

Sent via chat from James - Community New Page: HCPSS has a Community News page where nonprofit organizations can distribute information through the school system for posting. We are trying to drive parents and community members to this page so they can connect directly with nonprofits to receive educational supports outside of the school day. It would be great if you could submit this information to get your programs posted on the page. Requests to disseminate information are processed through the HCPSS Public Information Office - [publicinfo@hcpss.org](mailto:publicinfo@hcpss.org) so please reach out to them directly if you have questions about posting. <https://help.hcpss.org/>

<https://www.hcpss.org/coronavirus/#mental-health>

<https://www.hcpss.org/about-us/handbook/support-services/>

Jack K. reported that he "wanted to let everyone know that the State will continue funding our Medication Assisted Treatment Program at the Detention Center. The funding is for \$381,396.00. This is great news. The Health Department and Silverman Clinic have been key partners in making this happen. Thanks to Roe and Teron"

Corrected 11-4-2020

Roe responded – “You are welcome!!!! This is State Opioid Response (SOR) funding and includes funding for Oxford House for recovery housing and Grassroots for opioid crisis stabilization services.”

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm after Barbara expressed her appreciation and Debbie and Sean motioned to adjourn. Respectfully submitted: Beth

APPROVED