

**HOWARD COUNTY  
Opioid Crisis Community Council  
November 4, 2020**

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

Meeting came to order at 5:18pm

Attendance: Barbara Allen, Christina Castro, Jack Kavangh, Corey Bryce, John Way, Joanie Elder, Kaymisha Knights, Debbie Santini, Beth Schmidt, Jack Matthews, Cindy Johnson, James LeMon, Roe Rogers-Bonaccorsy, Robin Bartko, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Liesel Wood, Laura Torres, Debbie Nix, Teron Powell, Beth Harbinson, Theresa Collins.

Introductions of participants: Beth Schmidt indicated that this will be her last meeting as she has accepted a supervisory position with Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF). She introduced Debbie Santini, who will be taking her place on the OCCC as she is a person with lived experience and employee of MCF, as well as a resident of HoCo.

Minutes: Approved with a modification at Robin Bartko's suggestion around changing wording regarding children with challenges. She requested that it read "parents with children with challenges as ADHD and Asperger's need more support because they may be struggling in the virtual school environment". There were no other updates or modifications. Robin Bartko moved to accept minutes and Joanie Elder seconded to pass with the correction noted by Robin.

Announcements:

- Barbara noted that she heard from the state that 211 is not going away, which is different from what Roe reported last meeting. 211 press 1 may be changing for jurisdictions that do not have 24/7 hotlines, but based on the fact that HoCo has Grassroots, the calls will continue to be directed to them. Based on SOR funding the county should be promoting the Grassroots hotline number versus 211.
- Barbara spoke on the lack of MH and substance use residential treatment for youth in MD. BHA does not see a need for residential treatment for youth in MD. There is a committee (Lt. Gov Commission – Youth & Family) at the state level that exists to address this issue which will include testimony from parents who have struggled with getting treatment for their children. There will be a live streaming of the commission hearing tomorrow from 4-6pm. If progress isn't made at this time, efforts will continue. Beth S. added that treatment for youth is not available for youth that have MH and substance use issues. This results in youth being sent out of state to meet the substance use issues the youth is experiencing.
- The MD Behavioral Health Advisory Council meeting is November 17th and will include a discussion on veteran's suicide. The three areas that will be covered by the general assembly during 2021 session include budget, COVID, and Racial Justice.
- Beth S. shared that MCF cards will be added to the harm reduction van and SOBAR boxes. Any families that call MCF will be directed to Debbie S. Mark Donovan has suggested that a parent night be held monthly with speakers from Congruent Counseling, HC drug free and MCF rep (Debbie S.). The first committee meeting will be held on Monday to plan for the presentations. Debbie S. will take over the family center in Howard County. More details to come on the

parent information night presentation that will include Q & A. Beth Harbinson and Debbie Nix will represent the OCCC on the committee

- Roe announced that the health dept is planning a Behavioral Health summit with Aetna, and the first presentation is being held on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be 5 in total with one each month for an hour from 12-1pm. She also announced that the HD has received MDH approval for mail delivery of narcan. People can take the virtual class and the kit will then come in the mail tailored to the person receiving it (test strips, narcan, deterra bags, etc). They hope to reach people that they haven't been able to reach in the past. MCF will also be able to distribute narcan through their relationship with the HCHD.
- Robin announced that parents are often concerned that their children are using marijuana while playing video games. New ESCAPE Center -Electronic Screen Compulsion & Addiction Professional (online) Education at [escapecenter.thinkific.com](http://escapecenter.thinkific.com)
- Beth Harbinson announced tickets are on sale for the SOBAR virtual New Year's Eve event this year. They are on track with their fundraising which will allow everyone living in a sober house in HoCo to receive a ticket and SOBAR drink box for free. More info available on website [www.drinksobar.org](http://www.drinksobar.org)
- Barbara reported that Oregon passed a decriminalization law for all drugs yesterday. The law also provides money for treatment and safe injection sites
- Harm Reduction updates from Roe and Jack Matthews. New harm reduction RV in Health Dept parking lot (close to the Stanford Grill). Harm Reduction syringe services will soft launch on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> and be open Tues & Thur from 10am-2pm. The public launch will occur mid- Dec Services available on the RV include HIV, hep & STI testing, support and referral services. Narcan education and resources will also be available. It will be staffed with HD employees that can refer people to needed services. Wound care, safer use and sex supplies will also be available on the RV. Peers will always be on site to provide support and referrals to people.

First Responder Event:

Barbara thanked all who supported the event, especially Teron who co-lead the event along with Carol Boyer and Chris Collins from ROSC. Thanks to help received from OCCC members and ROSC who helped to make it happen. Details of the event were discussed, including details on the speaker Matt. Teron noted that the event helped to bring the county together to represent and address substance use disorders and the role that everyone plays in supporting it, especially first responders. OCCC allotted dollars were spent for the sign, the thematic graphic work for the sign (which OCCC owns and can use in future years), certificates and frames.

Next meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion by Cindy and seconded by Jack Matthews to close the meeting at 6:43pm

Respectfully submitted: Laura Torres

Chat box comments:

From Robin Bartko to Everyone: 05:32 PM

change from last paragraph on page one. Change to Robin asked about parents with children with challenges as ADHD and Asperger's need more support. be struggling.

oops...take off "be struggling"

**Revised: 3:26 pm, 12-2-2020**

From teron to Everyone: 05:53 PM

Just to add to the conversation regarding residential care for children, between 2008-2010 the state consolidated and reclaimed all the residential beds for youth. The intent was make all providers rebid their contracts in hopes to save money. This dramatically impacted the landscape, which never fully recovered. During this I was able to testify in Annapolis as a provider against the State's Sec of DJS and DHR/DSS. I say all this to say that generally the only way residential treatment for youth with substance use disorders is available is by the youth being adjudicated in the courts and placed. These placements typically are less clinical, behavior modification programs lacking in the areas of comprehensive substance use treatment. Back then orgs like @beth'sSchmidt's and MARFY were frontline orgs pushing for the return of residential beds for substance and mental health, among other issues.

From Beth Harbinson to Everyone: 05:55 PM

Tickets now on sale for our sober NYE virtual event. We are working towards enabling every sober living facility and halfway house in Howard County and possible some from neighboring counties to attend for free. Going to be a super fun night with live bands, DJ, Times Square and tons of activities.  
[www.drinksobar.org](http://www.drinksobar.org)

From Robin Bartko to Everyone: 05:55 PM

New ESCAPE Center -Electronic Screen Compulsion & Addiction Professional (online)  
Education...[escapecenter.thinkific.com](http://escapecenter.thinkific.com)

From Beth Schmidt to Everyone: 05:57 PM

Have to hop off, have a great night!!

From Robin Bartko to Everyone: 06:25 PM

the signs turned out really great!

From James LeMon to Everyone: 06:27 PM

I need to take this call. Look forward to getting the notes. Thank you all again for what you do everyday!

From Kaymisha-HCHD to Everyone: 06:42 PM

[kknights@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kknights@howardcountymd.gov)

From Robin Bartko to Everyone: 06:43 PM

happy thanksgiving