

# Behavioral Health Council Meeting Minutes

## Monday, January 13, 2025

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	<i>Behavioral Health Council</i>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<i>Virtual Conference</i>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<i>1/13/2025</i>	<b>Minutes Recorder:</b>	<i>Robyn Brown</i>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<i>10:00 am</i>	<b>Minutes Reviewer:</b>	<i>Michelle Hardy</i>

<b>Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:</b>	<i>Michelle Hardy (LBHA), Alexis Laws (Verbal Beginnings), Anthony Dickerson (Christian Shelter), Keith Richardson (Warwick Manor), Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Hope King (DSS), Matthew McConaughy (WiCHD), Jeff Merritt (Wicomico County Council), Rachel Sadorf (ESHC), Robyn Brown (LBHA), Kathy Walker (MAC Inc), Julie Willis (LBHA), Cindy Shifler (WiCHD)</i>
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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Michelle Hardy welcomed everyone to the meeting and Anthony Dickerson led the introductions.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	A motion to accept the November minutes was made by Matthew McConaughy, seconded by Kathy Walker and agreed upon by the group.	
<b>Introduction of new Wicomico Overdose Prevention Team Coordinator</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Julie Willis - <a href="mailto:juleannac.willis@maryland.gov">juleannac.willis@maryland.gov</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started her position as the OPT Coordinator part-time in November and transitioned to full time as of January 1st.</li> <li>She was an addictions counselor who primarily did screenings at the American Job Center.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Go Purple Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She is working with Penny Walters at Wor-Wic Community College to be able to have lunch &amp; learn training in April.</li> <li>The first Go Purple meeting will be on February 6th.</li> <li>The Tri-County Go Purple Kick-Off at the Shorebirds Stadium will be on September 9th with Fireworks.</li> </ul>	
<b>LBHA Updates</b>	<b>Assisted Outpatient Treatment- Civil Commitment for Adults with Mental Health (House Bill 576 and Senate Bill 453)</b> <i>AOT means that individuals with high need will be offered voluntary commitment into outpatient treatment</i>	

*instead of having to go to the detention center or face charges or to the State Hospital for a competency hearing.*

- Only \$3 million is available in grant funding for the entire State of Maryland which is not a lot of money to establish a program and pay BHA for a Coordinator of AOT.
- Wicomico County has until January 31st to make a decision if there will be an AOT in the county.
  - The law states that by July 1, 2026, each jurisdiction must have an assisted outpatient/ civil commitment program in each jurisdiction or if a jurisdiction chooses not to establish this, the state will.
  - Number one, initially there was no money associated with this.
  - Number two, there are no regulations or clinical guidance on how to run an assisted outpatient treatment program
- If we elect not to have a program run locally we cannot take that power back from the state or another agency. So there's major things to consider going forward and there's a lot of information that would be really nice to have that we don't have at this time.

**Transition to Carelon ASO (Administrative Services Organization) effective January 1, 2025**

- Carelon is the new ASO and it is a 5 year contract.
- The transition has been a little bumpy but the LBHA has been keeping track of any issues that are coming up.
- Warwick Manor was in direct contact with Carelon early on and things seem to be going smoothly.

**2 RFP's out on BID PATH program (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and Harm Reduction Machines**

- The PATH grant has been awarded to Diakonia.
  - The contract and requirements are being worked on.
  - The Intended use plan is being worked on and it will be sent to the State to be approved.
- Funding for the Harm Reduction Machines comes through the Opiate Abatement Funding that the Health Department has received.
  - We have identified 6 locations in the county.
  - The RFP has closed and the committee is reviewing the submissions and once a decision is made they will notify the successful bidder.

**RFP for Youth Targeted Case Management to be issued this fiscal year per federal and state requirements. Must put out a bid every 5 years due to federal regulations**

- Wraparound MD is the current vendor

**FY 25 Annual Report Status and Preparation for FY 26 Budget, Conditions of Awards**

- Because of the deficit of \$2.7 or \$2.8 billion to the state our annual plan has been delayed due to this.
- BHA was not satisfied with the budget allotment that they were awarded from DBM.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be cuts to the budget and we are looking at different line items in our budget to make sure that we retain the services in the community that are very much needed.</li> <li>Michelle is still working on the LBHA plan and annual report from last year</li> </ul>	
<b>LBHA FY25 Behavioral Health Workgroup Updates</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LBHA FY25 Behavioral Health Workgroup Updates</b></p> <p><b>Data Workgroup - Lisa Renegar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has wrapped up a lot of our strategies for this fiscal year.</li> <li>The subcommittee is kind of transitioning to do more of the strategic planning for the LBHA</li> <li>The subcommittee will work on improving how we are measuring those strategies identified from the strategic planning session</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural and Linguistic Strategies Workgroup - Hope King</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee has moved to translate the xylazine rack cards into Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese and are just waiting for printing to be completed</li> <li>In March the subcommittee plans to do the 2nd portion of our National Class Standards training which will be around communication and language assistance</li> </ul> <p><b>Education &amp; Awareness Workgroup - Cindy Shifler</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian Polk, Tina Thomas and I are working on the list of the monthly calendar events for 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be slots for members to add other topics to focus on as well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Prevention Program Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted Cannabis strategic plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with an evaluator to come up with an evaluation plan. This has to be done before we can implement any strategies</li> </ul> </li> <li>There were a lot of youth who participated in the online focus groups. We targeted a number of different youth groups to make it as diverse as well.</li> <li>We will be doing a focus group with adults also</li> <li>Information from both focus groups will determine the media campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wicomico County participants can win a \$50 gift card</li> <li>The survey is in both paper and electronic form.</li> </ul> </li> <li>We've had 1 DART (Drug Action Response Team) meeting so far. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The youth group is very active and are coming up with a lot of ideas</li> <li>They have selected what issues are very important to them and now they will be trying to figure out what strategies they would like to implement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Partner Updates</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Partner Updates</b></p> <p><b>Hope King</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RFP for the Safer, Stronger Together collaborative with the Department of Social Services, Department of Corrections, and Department of Juvenile Services has been sent out. It looks like there will be 4 different</li> </ul>	

	<p>categories of awards. There will be at least two awards in each category with the base award being \$50,000 per award. So, if some of you can take a look at the RFP, there may be services that you may want to look at applying for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social programming</li> <li>○ Family support</li> <li>○ Employment, education, and training</li> <li>○ Community safety</li> </ul> <p><b>Kathy Walker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The gym renovations are in the final phases and we hope to have it ready to be open by the end of January.</li> <li>● There will be a Spaghetti Dinner from 5:30 - 8:00 pm on January 25th</li> <li>● Tickets will be on sale soon for the March for Meals raffle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Everyday someone can purchase a ticket for \$31 and there will be a drawing each day to win the prize of the day</li> <li>○ Prizes are worth \$50</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming LBHA Events and Initiatives- Michelle Hardy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult In Person MHFA Training on 1/31/25 at the Salisbury Fire Department</li> <li>● Youth In Person MHFA Training on 2/20 and 2/21/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>It's best to take these trainings at least a year apart as the curriculum is similar</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● State of the Overdose Fatality Review Meeting 1/28/25 at TidalHealth for the Local Overdose Fatality Review Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sheriff Mike Lewis will be speaking at this meeting to talk about trends that he is seeing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Annual Color Run 4/26/25 at Kylan Barn</li> <li>● There will be a Veteran Standdown on April 26th at St. James AME Zion Church</li> <li>● SU/Beacon Needs Assessment to look at the need for residential services for Pregnant Women and women with children with substance use disorders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiting on the IRB approval so that Beacon can start the assessment process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Feedback/ Discussion/Closing Remarks- All</b></p>	<p>Matthew McConaughy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Rachel Sadorf.</p>	
<p><b>Upcoming Meeting Schedule</b></p>	<p><b>Calendar Year 2025 Meeting Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● March 10, 2025</li> <li>● May 12, 2025</li> <li>● July 14, 2025</li> <li>● September 8, 2025</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>November 3, 2025</li></ul>	
NEXT MEETING	Monday, March 10, 2025 at 10:00 am	

ACTION STEPS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE