

Behavioral Health Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2025

Meeting Name:	<i>Behavioral Health Council</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Virtual Conference</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>5/12/2025</i>	Minutes Recorder:	<i>Robyn Brown</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>10:00 am</i>	Minutes Reviewer:	<i>Michelle Hardy</i>

Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	<i>Meredith Miller (WCBOE), Alexis Laws (Verbal Beginnings), Ann Simpers (Mid-Shore Behavioral Health, Chris Batze (OPD), Jeff Merritt (Wicomico County Council), Kathy Walker (MAC Inc), Michelle Hardy (LBHA), Rachel Sadorf (ESHC), ,Robyn Brown (LBHA), Stephanie Vangasbeck (Diakonia), Rick Hamilton (Diakonia)</i>
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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	Meredith Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the introductions.	
Approval of Minutes	A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Chris Batze, seconded by Kathy Walker and agreed upon by the group.	
Prevention Program Updates - Michelle Hardy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Fenner is still doing the Strengthening Families class with only 3 or 4 sessions left • The are continuing to do the work with the Marijuana Grant • Takeshia Collins OMPP Coordinator (Opiate Misuse Prevention Program) has been assisting the LBHA with Narcan Training and Academic Detailing. She will be having an anti-stigma workshop soon 	
Presentation by Diakonia on Homeless and Veteran Outreach Services- Stephanie Vangasbeck	<p>Stephanie Vangasbeck - svangasbeck@diakoniaoc.org & Rick Hamilton - fhamilton@diakoniaoc.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 new individuals doing peer support on our Outreach Team • Rick Hamilton oversees the PATH program • There is a grant that is opioid related that allows us to do a lot of work in all 3 counties • Our Rapid Response program is based out of Worcester County and is dispatched out by police, fire and EMS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HealthPort Fruitland Police sends referrals for Wicomico County • The Mobile Outreach Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach Cell Phone - 443-953-5062 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uses a van full of resources that helps homeless individuals in Wicomico County ○ Same day services can be provided. We have helped individuals get into same day treatment. ○ Rick is able to put medical insurance and SNAP applications right on the spot using tablets ● HealthPort & Fruitland PD have made referrals to us for Wicomico County. ● PATH has the team in Wicomico 3 days a week. ● The team has been provided with ballistic vests that can be used when providing services out in the community. 	
LBHA Updates	<p>A. Update on Tri County SUD Residential Needs Assessment for Pregnant Women and Women with Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Successfully partnered with Beacon at SU and they have initiated their needs assessment work by contacting key stakeholders in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The needs assessment will help determine if there is grant funding to help establish SUD services for pregnant women and women with children. ● Beacon has conducted key stakeholder interviews and focus groups with providers. ● The biggest challenge is having surveys completed by their target population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pregnant women or women with children that are 10 and under. <p>B. FY 26 Budget, Conditions of Awards and FY 25 Annual Report Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The budget was submitted before the April 11th deadline. ● BHA only made recommendations for the future but asked to expound more about our work with the Prevention program and the opiate misuse work that is being done. <p>C. Transition to Carelon ASO (Administrative Service Organization)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall the transition from Optum to Carelon continues to be a bumpy ride. ● A few providers have reached out directly because It's been affecting their payroll and ability to pay rent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As of this time those providers are okay. ● Some of the LBHA staff requested a meeting to assist with uninsured and crisis bed holds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When staff came to the meeting, Carelon had the wrong people at the meeting. Carelon thought that it was a meeting with providers and not the LBHA. <p>D. RFP - Youth Targeted Case Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The scoring committee met and will be submitting the evaluations to procurement very soon. ● We will have a vendor in place by July 1st. 	

	<p>E. Assisted Outpatient Treatment- Civil Commitment for Adults with Mental Health Status for Wicomico County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All jurisdictions decided to defer to the State to set up the AOTs due to many different reasons. • They would like to convene and have a judges advisory panel to get more input. <p>F. Pending LBHA Staffing Vacancy and Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Polk, who is one of our addiction coordinators, retired on April 1st. • Interviews were held and we are waiting on references and reviewing the budget. <p>G. Recap of Annual Color Run held on April 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was held at Kylan Barn and was very successful. • Approximately 300 in attendance. <p>H. Recent Military Competence 101 Training held on May 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VA held a presentation on Military Competence to our Veteran Support Workgroup. • 21 people attended and it was very well received. <p>I. Overdose Prevention Team Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Coordinator Julie Willis has been doing a lot of things related <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a fentanyl campaign ad that has been running both online and network tv. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The targeted audience was adults 55 & up ■ Michelle will show the ad after partner updates 	
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>Meredith Miller - WCBOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3rd Annual Children’s Mental Health Awareness Family Night was very successful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 400 food food tickets were handed out. ○ 141 registered for the e-race 5K ○ Petting zoo, art contest, bounce house, Cascading Carlos and lots of other fun activities ○ The e-race the stigma will also be holding the 5k run/walk. • Schools have been busy planning events for Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week and tying that into Teacher Appreciation Week. • Our mental health supervisor, Tiffany has resigned and will be working at DSS in Dorchester County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applications for the position will close on Friday. • We will be hiring for 6-7 school social workers. Those that are interested can apply on the Board of Education’s website. 	

	<p>Kathy Walker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Alzheimer's Conference will be held on June 11th at Salisbury University. • The 20% reduction in the senior care program has been rescinded for the end of this fiscal year.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We should expect a reduction in finances on July 1. • Nick Cranfort is the new Community Relation and Development Coordinator who started last week. <p>Hope King - DSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have an opening - our Family Team Decision-Making Facilitator left in March so there is a vacancy. 	
	<p>Strategic Planning Session for the BHC Council and Workgroup Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking to hold this in person meeting possibly in the fall 	
<p>Upcoming LBHA Events and Initiatives- Michelle Hardy</p>	<p>A. Planning for Go-Purple/ Recovery Month/ Overdose Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdose Awareness Day will be held on August 28th at Winterplace Park. • Tri County Kick-Off game at the Shorebirds will be on September 6th at the Shorebirds Stadium. <p>B. Annual Refresh, Renew, Relax Conference for those in recovery on June 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration is full <p>C. "It's More than a Job" Training for Behavioral Health Professionals on Working with Military/ Veterans and their Families on June 4. In person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Full with 60 individuals registered <p>D. Lower Shore Veterans Support Workgroup has been Invited to Statewide CIM Summit June 16</p>	
<p>Upcoming Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>Calendar Year 2025 Meeting Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 8,2025 • November 3, 2025 	
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Monday, July 14, 2025 at 10:00 am</p>	

ACTION STEPS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
