

Behavioral Health Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

Meeting Name:	<i>Behavioral Health Council</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Virtual Conference</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>3/10/2025</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), Cindy Shifler (WiCHD, Hope King (DSS), Kathy Walker (MAC Inc), Keith Richardson (Warwick Manor), Leslie Brown (Hudson Health), Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Matthew McConaughy (WiCHD), Michelle Hardy (LBHA), Rachel Sadorf (ESHC), Robyn Brown (LBHA)</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 January 13th minutes was made by Matthew McConaughy, seconded by Alexis Laws and agreed upon by the group.	
Prevention Program Updates- Cindy Shifler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department is in the early planning stages of the yearly awards luncheon which is normally held in May or June. It is being discussed whether or not this might be a breakfast or dinner due to some of the awardees not being available at lunch due to their work schedules Carol Fenner is about halfway through her Strengthening Families class with only 3 or 4 sessions left Cindy has been working on a logic model for the Marijuana Grant and will be developing an evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been a few adults and youth that have participated in the virtual surveys on marijuana The purpose is to see what issues each group would like the focus to be on based on that particular population. Environmental scans were done on alcohol, vaping, and convenience stores. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During these scans we observe signage that is outside, walk around the establishment to make sure that people can see both inside and outside, placement of items around the store, and also what kinds of items are placed near the doors. 	
LBHA Updates		

A. Update on Tri County SUD Residential Needs Assessment for Pregnant Women and Women with Children

- Successfully partnered with Beacon at SU and they have initiated their needs assessment work by contacting key stakeholders in the community.
- Working on surveys that will be going out to the community.
- We hope to have the needs assessment completed by the end of the fiscal year.
- We are hoping to be able to offer SUD services for pregnant women and women with children.

B. FY 26 Budget, Conditions of Awards and FY 25 Annual Report Status

- The State is in a \$3 billion deficit
- The LBHA had a meeting to explain the need for more funding to the Fiscal people in BHA. We received less than what was requested
 - Some cuts may have to be made to subvendors. This has been discussed with these vendors.
- The State is going to go back to their team and will be making adjustments to the budget.
- We have received about 80% of the Conditions of Awards that we normally get.
 - The State has been making a lot of changes to the Conditions of Awards and the Statements of Work.
 - A lot has to do with accountability. Holding us accountable and also the subvendors for meeting their performance measures.
- Due to all of the budget cuts, the deadline for our annual plan submission is April 11th.
 - The Council may not be able to review the plan until after it has been reviewed by BHA.

C. Transition to Carelon ASO

- Overall the transition from Optum to Carelon has been okay.
- It seems that only 3 or 4 providers seem to be having problems with the transition. Some are struggling with sustainability.
 - *It appears that Carelon does not work with Medicare*
 - *There are also issues with some uninsured providers*
 - *The LBHA transition has not been smooth*

E. RFP - Youth Targeted Case Management.

- The RFP was listed in the Daily Times Newspaper on Sunday and should be posted to the Health Department website some time today.
- The current vendor is Wraparound Maryland.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The RFP must be put out every 5 years due to regulations in the State's Medicaid Policy. <p>F. Assisted Outpatient Treatment- Civil Commitment for Adults with Mental Health Status for Wicomico County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All jurisdiction decided to defer to the State to set up the AOTs ● Another stakeholder meeting will be held to talk about this further. The State would like to have local implementation but the funding is just not there to have these in the state. Approximately \$4.5 - 5 million short of what it would cost to operate at the local level. ● <p>G. Pending LBHA Staffing Vacancy and Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brian Polk, who is one of our addiction coordinators, will be retiring on April 1st. ● Recruitment for his position will end on March 12th and we hope to interview candidates in April. <p>H. Update on State Moratorium on Some New Licensed Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The State has extended the moratorium on new PHP providers, substance use IOP ,and PRP providers opening in the area. ● We received a memo in February that MDRN funds for FY 25 have been exhausted and any new or recurring payments will be ending. There will be a new pot of money for FY 26 	
<p>LBHA FY25 Behavioral Health Workgroup Updates</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LBHA FY25 Behavioral Health Workgroup Updates</p> <p>Data Workgroup - Lisa Renegar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has wrapped up a lot of our strategies for this fiscal year. ● The subcommittee is kind of transitioning to do more of the strategic planning for the LBHA ● The subcommittee will work on improving how we are measuring the strategies identified from the strategic planning session <p>Cultural and Linguistic Strategies Workgroup - Hope King</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The xylazine rack cards that were translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole are in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are waiting for the Portuguese cards to be printed. <p>Education & Awareness Workgroup - Cindy Shifler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cindy reached out to Tasha to see what she would like her to share with the community about the Harm Reduction services that she & her team provide. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is challenging to engage people to sign up for the monthly calendar events for 2025 that we post on social media. Cindy has been doing them herself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michelle will send something out to the group asking for help. 	
Prevention Program Updates - Cindy Shifler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning stages of the Awards luncheon for this year which will be held in May or June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Breakfast or Dinner, polling members, and awardees to see when is the best time to meet ● Carol Fenner has been implementing the Strengthening Families with only ¾ sessions to go. ● Worked on a logic model with an evaluator for the Cannabis grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Virtual groups have been held ○ Working with an evaluator to come up with an evaluation plan. This has to be done before we can implement any strategies ● 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. ● Environmental scans of alcohol, tobacco & vape stores 	
Partner Updates	<p>Leslie Brown - Hudson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 months ago they put in for a new OMHC in Salisbury. It's a higher level outpatient center. It will open in about 30 days and will be located on South Boulevard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They were able to submit their paperwork before the moratorium went out. <p>Meredith Miller - WCBOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working on the 3rd Annual Children's Mental Health Awareness Family Night. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The event will be held on Friday, May 9th at the Civic Center from 5pm - 8pm. We are hoping the new location will help with the ○ 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 ● Successful training for those working with immigrants with almost 250 participants attending. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lot of positive feedback was received after the training ○ There was a lot of information presented to help those helping <p>Kathy Walker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The senior care program will be getting a 20% reduction to funding starting March 1st and additional cuts will happen in the next fiscal year. ● The State is looking at a new program called SOAR (Supporting Older Adults with Resources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It involves the Senior Care, and the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy programs. ○ The Dept. of Aging is looking to see how all of this will work. ● Bay Care, an assisted living home in Pocomoke, will be closing this week and MAC is struggling to find 	

	<p>placements for the individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gym has reopened and we are taking new clients. Please call the agency for more information • Tickets are on sale soon for the March for Meals raffle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyday someone can purchase a ticket for \$31 and there will be a drawing each day to win the daily prize. ○ Prizes are worth \$50: Gift cards, funding, etc If you're a winner for the day then your name goes back into the pool. • Fundraiser at Burnished Beer from 1-9 proceeds will go to Meals on Wheels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On March 31st from 3pm - 5pm there will be another fundraiser and tickets are only \$10 	
Feedback/ Discussion/Closing Remarks- All	<p>Possible Presenters at future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.W.I.F.T. Team • The Crisis Center • Diakonia (PATH) 	
Strategic Planning Session	<p>Strategic Planning Session for the BHC Council and Workgroup Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting possibly in the fall • We will need to do a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis 	
Upcoming LBHA Events and Initiatives- Michelle Hardy	<p>A. Child In Person MHFA Training on 3/20 and 3/21/25 (rescheduled from last month)</p> <p>B. Annual Color Run 4/26/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendors will be limited to support services only this year. <p>C. Planning for Go-Purple/ Recovery Month/ Overdose Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdose Awareness Day will be held on August 28th • Weeding through Cannabis training on April 10th • Please reach out to Julie Willis if you would like to be a part of the Go Purple committee <p>D. Annual Refresh, Renew, Relax Conference for those in recovery on June 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be held at the Civic Center but the contract has not yet been signed from 9:00am - 1:00pm <p>E. Other Trainings are in process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hope to have Dr. Buckingham from Laurel Maryland offer a training for our Veterans Support Workgroup 	
Upcoming Meeting Schedule	<p>Calendar Year 2025 Meeting Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 12, 2025 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 14, 2025• September 8,2025• November 3, 2025	
NEXT MEETING	Monday, May 12, 2025 at 10:00 am	

ACTION STEPS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE