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**Combined Councils Meeting: The State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council  
and  
The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/PL 102-321 Planning  
Council**

**Minutes**

**December 17, 2014**

**State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council Members:** Gray Barton, John Winslow,  
Lawrence Simpson (by phone), Christina Church for Patricia, Arriazo, Pete Singleton

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** Mike Finkle, Joshana Goga, Dennis McDowell,  
Joanne Meekins (by phone), Robert M. Pender, Charles Reifsnider

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Gerald Beemer, Richard Blair,  
Sarah Burns, Chair; Jaimi L. Brown, M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Michele Forzley,  
Edwin C. Oliver, Livia Pazourek, John Scharf, Anita Solomon, John Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Robert Anderson, Michael Bluestone, Naomi Booker,  
Eugenia W. Conolly, Chicquita Crawford, Herb Cromwell, Dayna Harris,  
Kate Farinholt (by phone), Nancy Feeley, A. Scott Gibson, Ebele Onwueme, Cynthia Petion,  
Michelle Stewart (by phone), Crista Taylor, Phoenix Woody

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, T.E. Arthur, Coordinator;  
Karen M. Black, Anne Blackfield, Jan Desper, R. Terence Farrell, Vira Froehlinger,  
Ann Geddes, Julie Jerscheid, Sharon Lipford, George Lipman, Dan Martin, Alexis Moss,  
Jacqueline Powell, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Kathleen Ward

**BHA Staff Present:** Daryl Pley, Deirdre Davis, Rachel Faulkner, Brandee Izquierdo, Robin  
Poponne, Iris Reeves, Hilary Phillips, Greta Carter

**Guests and Others:**

Miriam Yarmolinsky, Peer Wellness and Recovery Services

Clifton D. Crawford III

Zereana Jess – Huff, ValueOptions®Maryland;

Erik Roskes, DHMH, Office of Forensic Services;

Jacqueline Pettis, ValueOptions®Maryland;

Erin McMullen, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Jodie Chilson, Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Jeanne D. Cooper, Maryland Department of Human Resources

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Petion, Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Attendees introduced themselves. The draft minutes of the September 16, 2014 Combined Councils meeting were approved with corrections. Jean Cooper and Jodie Chilson were listed as attending members and they are actually guests. Additionally, Dayna Harris, DHCD is attending in place of William Manahan, who was inadvertently marked absent. These errors will be corrected and the minutes will be placed on the new BHA Web site. Please note that the approved minutes will be posted on the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) Web site at <http://bha.dhmd.maryland.gov/>. The Joint Council and SDAAC are links on the home page.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Charles Reifsnider informed the Council that Judy Hott, the Executive Director of the Thomas Finan Hospital Center, will retire in December. John Cullen, currently the Assistant Superintendent, will serve as Acting Executive Director.
- Chiquita Crawford distributed brochures advocating for increased membership in the Baltimore City Special Education Citizens Advisory Council (SECAC). Individuals interested in special needs advocacy for children and adolescents are encouraged to visit the Web site at [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org).
- On February 12, 2015 the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) will hold its annual Legislative Briefing and Reception from 4:30 to 8:00pm at the Loews in Annapolis. The keynote will be delivered by Doris Kearns Goodwin, noted Pulitzer Prize winning historian. Brian Hepburn and Al Zachik will be among the honorees. Registration, due February 1, 2015, is available on-line at [www.mhamd.org/event](http://www.mhamd.org/event)
- On Wednesday, February 25, from noon to 1:00 pm, the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition will hold a rally at the State House in Annapolis to advocate for access to high quality behavioral health services and adequate funding for the public behavioral health system. For more information, contact Dan Martin at [dmartin@mhamd.org](mailto:dmartin@mhamd.org)
- Cynthia Petion announced that BHA thanks all who participated and/or assisted with the preparation for the SAMHSA monitoring site visit for the federal Community Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) on December 9-11. This visit was part of a 3-5 year rotation round of reviews conducted in all states that receive the MHBG. During this time, the monitors evaluated MHBG programs and expenditures as well as other services in the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) and held sessions with Council members, consumer and family advocates, and providers among other components of the behavioral health system. Daryl Plevy added that the Exit Conference emphasized the exceptional efforts of Maryland and the value of mutual respect and collaboration that places Maryland in the forefront nationally.

### **THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The Behavioral Health Administration's Deputy Director of Operations, Daryl Plevy, provided the following Director's Report in the absence of BHA Executive Director, Brian Hepburn:

#### **Behavioral Health Integration (BHI):**

The Administration is only weeks away from January 1, 2015, when ValueOptions, the administrative services organization (ASO) will begin under a new contract, to manage

the mental health and substance use behavioral health system. The ASO's many roles will include

- Oversight of substance use services that were once administered through MCOs (including partial hospitalization) which will now be under the purview of the ASO.
- the collection of substance use data both Medicaid services and grant-managed services; alignment of the mental health and the substance use data to create combined data for the behavioral health system of care; and continued expansion of the Outcome Measurement System (OMS) data. OMS is an effective tool for outpatient service users because it is customized and gives point-in-time and change-over-time updates and will be required system-wide after January 1. OMS is new to substance use providers so there are many questions to be answered.
- The largest adjustment is for substance use providers who will no longer provide care through the managed care organizations (MCOs) but will become fee-for-service providers. Local jurisdictions will no longer manage the grant funding as before. The system must be ready to receive and pay claims on January 1, 2015. Also, individuals who are uninsured must now also meet certain criteria rather than rely on coverage through grants. Other uninsured individuals who do not meet that criteria will remain under grant funds until July 2015.
- Also standards for use of the national provider identifier (NPI), a unique 10-digit identification number issued to [health care](#) providers in the [United States](#) by the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) are being developed across all sites with the assistance of the local Health Departments. Each provider site must utilize only one MA number and one NPI number for the purpose of billing. Those provider sites that currently use multiple NPIs must resolve this issue. Questions concerning NPIs for level 1 jail-based sites will be clarified and posted on the ValueOptions Web site\*
- Regulations are being developed toward accreditation standards. DHMH Secretary Scharfstein is refining them and will submit them soon.

\*A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are posted on the ValueOptions Web site (homepage, click red box) at <http://maryland.valueoptions.com> .

## **PRESENTATION:**

### **Behavioral Health Integration – Maryland ASO, ValueOptions®Maryland (VO)**

Zereana Jess-Huff, Ph.D., CEO

This presentation is intended to inform the Council of changes expected in the transformation of the mental health and substance-related disorder (SRD) systems and to identify resources for the integration process in Maryland for Council members and advocacy groups. Under a 3-year contract, ValueOptions (VO) has been chosen as the ASO to manage mental health and SRD services for Maryland Medicaid recipients, eligible uninsured individuals, and individuals who are ineligible uninsured (grant funding).

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Dr. Jess-Huff continued the discussion of the new role of ValueOptions initiated by Daryl Plevy. She opened the presentation with identification of terminology prevalent in a behavioral health system of care such as substance-related disorders (SRDs), the change from the Public Mental Health System to the “Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS)”, and the components of behavioral health care. Her further discussion included the following:

- Timeline of background and context for behavioral health integration (BHI) in Maryland and a discussion of Medicaid and SRDs past and present.
  - Use of HEDIS metrics to measure performance of SRD benefits and utilization of ASAM criteria for authorization eligibility
  - She discussed advocacy input into the process from mental health and substance use advocates.
  - Impact of Medicaid expansion statewide and nationwide, especially for individuals with SRD
  - Benefits and challenges of the carve-out model
  - Provider network development, encouragement of health homes
  - Special needs populations – continuity of care for individuals re-entering the community
  - Range of services and specialized trainings and future Webinars to be offered by VO upon the January 2015 start-up date,
  - Some trainings will be offered through regional forums
  - Some discussion of new regulations establishing new standards for community-based substance use disorder services
  - Implementation of interactive and integrative tools such as an interactive case management system, a MCO/Physician consult line, shared pharmacy data through ProviderConnect, ReferralConnect which will give information on providers within 5 mile radius of home, and other data collecting mechanisms

On January 1, 2015 the new VO Web site will be launched and will include many resources such as the new member handbook (toward the end of the month) and information on CSAs/LAAs and advocacy groups. Also FAQs are released by DHMH-BHA updated weekly and bi-weekly. Also special consultation and Provider Alerts are available to support providers and provider programs through this process of change.

The ValueOptions Web address is <http://maryland.valueoptions.com>

**COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Rachael Falkner informed the Councils that the proposed draft legislation to establish one Behavioral Health Advisory Council is moving forward. Often legislation such as this may be supported through private sponsorship, perhaps by a member of the legislature. This has not yet been decided but remains a possibility.

Cynthia Petion brought up the importance of moving ahead with the next steps, particularly convening a committee to develop by-laws and identify the specific committees. It is likely that the Councils will hold a retreat to proceed with these tasks. Feedback is welcome.

With a letter of support from the Joint Council leadership, Brandee Izquierdo, the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, BHA, submitted a Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) grant proposal to provide training and leadership education to promote training for Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS), Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs) training, as well as the development of and training to support Substance Use and Co-occurring Advanced Directives. The awards will be announced in January 2015.

Additionally, Miriam Yarmolinsky, Director of Peer Wellness and Recovery Services, Inc., is spearheading a training program for peers in collaboration with OOOMD, MDLC, MHAMD, and NAMI involving advanced directives for individuals with substance use and/or mental health disorders. The project intends to utilize user-friendly workgroups and include the University of Maryland in the evaluation component of the project.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Combined Council will meet in March.