



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

Minutes

June 16, 2015

State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council Attendees: Gail Jordan-Randolph, Gray Barton, Jeanne D. Cooper, Carlos Hardy

Maryland Advisory Council Members:

Dennis McDowell, Livia Pazourek, Robert M. Pender, Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon, John Turner

Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent: Gerald Beemer, Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Sarah Burns, Chair; M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Mike Finkle, Michele Forzley, Joshana Goga, Edwin C. Oliver, Joanne Meekins, John Scharf, Sherrie Wilcox

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

PL 102-321 Council Members Present: Robert Anderson, Naomi Booker, Herb Cromwell, Jan Desper Peters, Ann Geddes, Dayna Harris, Jessica Honke for Kate Farinholt, Cynthia Petion, Michelle Stewart, Phoenix Woody

PL 102-321 Council Members Absent: Lynn Albizo, T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Karyn M. Black, Anne Blackfield, Michael Bluestone, Morgan Cole, Chicquita Crawford, Nancy Feeley, Vira Froehlinger, A. Scott Gibson, Julie Jerscheid, Michael Lang, Sharon Lipford, George Lipman, Dan Martin, Ebele Onwueme, Jacqueline Powell, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Crista Taylor, Kathleen Ward

BHA Staff Present: Erik Roskes, Lori Mannino, Lisa Fassett, Robin Poponne, Hilary Phillips, Greta Carter

Guests and Others:

Robert Shapiro, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development;

Jodie Chilson, Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Jordan More, Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Jennifer Tuerke, ValueOptions@Maryland;

Jacqueline Pettis, ValueOptions@Maryland;

Daniel Schneider, OMNI House

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INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Petion, Director of Planning, who sat in for the Maryland Advisory Council Chair, Sarah Burns. Attendees introduced themselves. A draft of the minutes from the May 19th Maryland Advisory Council meeting were approved, and thereby officially adopted by the combined parties. Please note all approved minutes will be posted on the BHA Web site at <http://bha.dhmdh.maryland.gov/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dayna Harris, Group Home Program Manager for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development shared materials about the Maryland Group Home Financing Program. For more information or how these resources maybe used to support individuals with behavioral health disorders, please contact Ms. Harris @ 301 -429-7845.
- Dr. Anita Solomon announced that her Clinical team received an Innovative Team Award which was through the DHMH Employee Recognition Awards Program.

State Plan and Block Grant Process:

Cynthia Petion provided an update on the BHA's FY2016 Behavioral Health State Plan and the FY2016-17 Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) development process. A draft of the FY2016 State Behavioral Health Plan includes recommendations made at the Annual Plan Development Meeting for stakeholder participation held on April 24th at Temple Oheb Shalom. The Planning Committee of the Joint Council will participate in the Plan review meeting hosted by BHA, Office of Planning, on Thursday, June 25th. This meeting will provide an opportunity for additional comments and recommendations regarding strategies and indicators.

Additionally, the BHA, Office of Planning began the process to develop the MHBG Application. This document will be submitted by September 1, 2015. The Planning Committee will also review strategies to be highlighted in the Block Grant application. The Combined Council will also receive a draft of the FY2016 BH Plan. Please submit your comments and recommendations to Robin Poponne prior to the June 25th meeting.

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

BHA's Deputy Secretary, Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D., provided the following Director's Report:

Update on Integration Efforts:

The first year anniversary of the integration between the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration will be acknowledged on July 1, 2015. Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D., Deputy Secretary, shared her appreciation for the collective effort made by BHA staff, administrators, and stakeholders in moving the Behavioral Health's integrated administrative and operational mission forward.

During the yearlong process, strengths, weakness and gaps in the delivery of our services have been identified and will be addressed as we continue our transition and move forward with our mission. Most importantly, during this integration, administrative collaboration in the department and between divisions has been enhanced, resulting in improvements across the entire system of

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service delivery. As our united efforts continue to unfold, our behavioral health collaboration will move forward with our integrated mission.

New Acting Executive Director:

In early June, 2015, the BHA Executive Director, Brian Hepburn, M.D., retired after 34 Years of service in the system. He will be taking another position as CEO with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). The BHA's Acting Executive Director will be Al Zachik, M.D., who will remain in this position until a replacement is found for Dr. Hepburn. Al Zachik, M.D., is a well-known advocate for treatment and delivery services for children and adolescents. Al Zachik, M.D., will be temporarily replaced by an Acting Director, Tom Merrick, a member of his Division. A national search is currently being conducted for a new BHA Executive Director.

Administrative Service Organization (ASO):

One major enhancement part of the integration process is our contract with the Administrative Service Organization (ASO), Values Options Maryland. This opportunity with the Administrative Service Organization (ASO) contract will can be used to better understand our service delivery data system, mainly to enhance the department's ability to access and warehouse data. The department received a grant for technical assistance from the National Governors Association to further explore ways to use data to better understand a high user population across the delivery system. Efforts are underway to identify recommendations, strategies, and guidelines to reduce over-utilization and improve outcomes across the system.

SAMHSA Grant Submission:

A new grant opportunity has been announced for fiscal year (FY) 2016 called "Planning Grants for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics." Funding is available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). As many as 24 states will receive up to \$2 million in planning funds. The Department will be submitting the application in collaboration with BHA, and Medicaid's Office of Health Services, Applications are due on August 5, 2015.

The purpose of the CCBHC Planning Grant is to: (1) support states to certify clinics as certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs), (2) establish prospective payment systems for Medicaid reimbursable services, and (3) prepare an application to participate in a two year demonstration program. Demonstration program applications are due later than October 31, 2016. Up to eight states will be selected to participate in the demonstration program no later than September 1, 2017.

Populations to be served are adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, and those with long term and serious substance use disorders, as well as others with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Support and feedback from the Behavioral Health Advisory Council is important. Regular updates about the many components of the grant will be provided. So far, the BHA has reached out to the behavioral health coalition and various stakeholders to become engaged in this process

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and we will be as inclusive as possible between now and the application due date. Please send feedback and questions directly to Rhianna Brown, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health (rianna.brown@maryland.gov) who will be the DHMH point of contact with this grant.

COMBINED COUNCIL BUSINESS:

The Combined Council motioned to provide a letter of support for this grant to the DHMH. The Executive Committee of the Joint Council will write and review the letter and disseminate to Ms. Brown along with a submission of the application.

Changes to the Combined Council Bylaws:

Robin Poponne sought feedback from the Council about the revised bylaws. The feedback received at this meeting will be incorporated into a final document, which will then be approved at the first official meeting of the new Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Language was changed regarding the number of members appointed by the Governor to the council from, “at least” to “14 members.” A second change was made “representatives include” was changed to “additional representatives include.” Please send any additional comments, or questions about the bylaws to Robin Poponne: robin.poponne@maryland.gov @maryland.gov.

The discussion included the idea that the council process could be enhanced if the Governor met the members of the council, face-to-face, at least once a year. Perhaps this issue could be addressed in the Annual Report or in a letter to the Governor.

Membership for the New Council:

Currently members serving on the council will have to apply for the new Council by following the structured application process outlined below. Current members are encouraged to continue their participation in the new Council by completing the application process. All appointments to the Combined Council will be done by application alone. If for some reason, current council members are not appointed to the new council, they are encouraged to participate by attending the open council meetings and by joining various additional committees that meet in-between the Council meetings.

Assistance and guidance will be available throughout the council application process. Kim Bennardi, Administrator at the Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, handles council appointment applications, she is available from M-F, 6:30am to 4pm. Kim Bennardi can be reached at kim.bennardi@maryland.gov. Application materials can be submitted by fax, email, or scanned and submitted online by the July 31, 2015 deadline. Application materials were provided in a packet at the meeting, but if you need copies of the application materials please contact the Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. After the application deadline, a list of applicants will be sent to the Governor’s office where final decisions will be made.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Combined Council meeting will be held on **September 15, 2015**.