



# State of Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Larry Hogan, Governor – Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor – Van T. Mitchell, Secretary, DHMH

## MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes

November 17, 2015

#### **Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Present:**

Makeitha Abdulbarr, Barbara L. Allen, Dori S. Bishop, Karyn M. Black, Kelby Brick, Mary Bunch, Sara Cherico-Hsii, Kenneth Collins, Jan A. Desper Peters, Catherine Drake, The Hon. Addie Eckardt, Ann Geddes, Lauren Grimes, Elaine Hall, Shannon Hall, Christina Halpin, Carlos Hardy, Dayna Harris, Virginia Harrison, The Hon. Antonio Hayes, Japp Haynes, IV, James Hedrick, Michael Ito, Joel E. Klein, Sharon M. Lipford, Theresa Lord, Dan Martin, Dennis L. McDowell, Stephen T. Moyer, The Hon. Dana Moylan Wright, Kathleen O'Brien, Yngvild Olsen, Mary Pizzo, Charles Reifsnider, Catherine Simmons-Jones, Brandi Stocksdale, Tracey Webb, Ellen M. Weber, John Winslow, Michelle Wojcicki, Phoenix Woody, Albert Zachk

#### **Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council Members Absent:**

Anne Blackfield, Lori Brewster, Laura Cain, Kate Farinholt, Robert Findling, Gayle Jordan-Randolph, The Hon. George Lipman, Jonathan Martin, Keith Richardson, Penelope Thornton Talley

#### **BHA Staff Present:**

Cynthia Petion, Marian Bland, Erik Roskes, Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, Brandee Izquierdo, Robin Poponne, Hilary Phillips, Larry Dawson, Nicolle Birkhead, Olivia Kim, Greta Carter

#### **Guests and Others:**

Crista Taylor, Behavioral Health System Baltimore for MACSA;  
Kathleen Woell, University of Baltimore School of Law; Jackie Pettis, Beacon Health Options;  
Kim Bennardi, Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations, DHMH;  
Mike Finkle, On Our Own of Maryland; Jessica Honke, NAMI Maryland;  
Doris McDonald, Calvert County Health Department, Behavioral Health;  
Wright Doss, Prince George's County Health Department

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c/o Behavioral Health Administration

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## **WELCOME**

Cynthia Petion, Director of the Office of Planning, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), opened the meeting and welcomed all members and guests. She thanked all, including Staff Support, members of the current Council, and the members of the prior Maryland Advisory Council/PL 102-321 and the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, who contributed to the establishment of this Behavioral Health Advisory Council to this day.

Staff Support to the Council will continue from the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA's) Office of Planning. Staff were introduced, along with their specific duties:

- Greta Carter – Provides administrative support to the Council
- Hilary Phillips – Will organize committee structure activities
- Robin Poponne – Handles membership, attendance requirements, the Annual Report, and other required documents

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Please contact the staff if you have any questions or concerns.

## **OPENING REMARKS** – Al Zachik, M.D., Acting Executive Director, BHA

Dr. Zachik welcomed all on behalf of the Governor Hogan, Lt. Governor Rutherford, the DHMH Secretary Mitchell, and Deputy Secretary Jordan-Randolph for Behavioral Health Services. He announced that the permanent BHA Executive Director has been appointed and will begin officially in December 2015. Dr. Zachik was happy to serve in the interim and will return to his former position of Deputy Director of Children's Services.

Dr. Zachik also expressed how valuable the input of the Councils has always been in supporting and improving a full system of care for all individuals with behavioral health needs. He stated that the process of behavioral health integration was a huge change and that one year later, much was accomplished and BHA continues to move forward to make this change successful. He said the Administration looks forward to the advice and the direction this Council will offer.

Additionally, Dr. Zachik formally invested the present Council members in attendance with the role of "Nominating Committee" so that later in the meeting a procedure to formulate a slate of candidates for officers could be expedited.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and guests introduced themselves and told the group how or why they became involved with this Council. This first meeting was face-to-face (without teleconferencing) and most members were in attendance.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

It was noted that all but four membership positions, were filled. Kim Bennardi, DHMH Office of Appointments, announced that candidate approval was pending for two academic research slots and one for local behavioral health council. Also, the Council is in need of a youth representative, age 16-21. Also, Ms Bennardi reminded us that members appointed by the Governor or the DHMH Secretary could not send proxy members for voting or to satisfy attendance requirements. For all members representing ex-officio or specific organizations, if

another individual will be attending more regularly, in place of the currently identified member, please let Ms. Bennardi know as soon as possible so that she can make the change official.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tom Merrick, Acting Deputy Director of Children's Services, BHA, announced that Maryland applied for and has received the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Planning grant from SAMHSA. 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. Populations to be served are adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, and individuals with long-term and serious substance-use disorders, as well as others with mental illness and substance-use disorders. The Council has been identified as the stakeholder body for input in planning and implementation of the grant's activities. Mr. Merrick suggested that the Council might consider forming an ad hoc group to serve this function.

### **DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT BY-LAWS OF THE COUNCIL**

First, we would like to thank Senator Addie Eckardt for sponsoring Senate Bill 174 which established this Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

We also thank all of those who worked to plan for the creation of this Council and who helped to fashion these draft by-laws.

Cynthia Petion opened the discussion of the By-laws with a summary of the history of its development. The By-laws were a result of the members of the prior Combined Council attending a retreat to generate the items and subsequent meetings to edit the draft. Ms. Petion highlighted key areas in the By-laws and focused on the Committee Structure section.

Membership discussion regarding the committee structure included:

- The addition of the Workforce Development Committee
- Choosing leadership within the committees
- Separation of populations - children, adolescents, and young adults from adults and older adults - within the Lifespan Committee
- Membership on committees not being limited to Council members and Council members having the opportunity to join more than one committee
- Emphasis on the need to focus on quality in every committee
- The need to maintain true integration in areas of mental health and substance-related disorders in committee formation and among committee chairs
- Possible ad hoc committees that may cover areas such as Medicaid financing, federal grant implementation, or other issues related to behavioral health integration
- Other pertinent questions and concerns

A draft copy of the corrected by-laws, with some suggested changes highlighted, will be sent to the membership within two weeks of the meeting. Members will be asked to take a close look and send any comments, amendments, or corrections to Robin Poponne at

[robin.poponne@maryland.gov](mailto:robin.poponne@maryland.gov) by January 4, 2016. An updated version will be emailed for review and the membership will vote at January's meeting on the adoption of the By-laws.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS/UPDATES**

During his opening speech, the Acting Executive Director of the Behavioral Health Administration, Dr. Zachik, bestowed the role of Nominating Committee upon the attendees of the first meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Later in the meeting, the nominating process – each member nominating a name for Chair and one for Vice Chair through secret ballot - was explained. Three members expressed interest in becoming candidates. However, any member of the Council could be nominated or nominate themselves for the slate.

Support Staff further explained that the ballots would be collected and tallied by staff, after the meeting. The top three candidates (with the most votes) for each position would be notified and asked to forward a curriculum vitae (CV) or resume to staff. The slate of candidates and CVs would then be sent to all Council members, by email, to return their votes, also by email, to support staff by the third week in December.

The selected officers will be notified and will begin their two-year term of service as of January 2016.

### **Next Steps**

The agenda for the next meeting will include the review of the role, purpose and duties and the approval of the By-laws.

It was suggested that members be ready to discuss and express interest in specific committees, committee recruitment, and to be prepared to inform the Council if you have a desire to lead a committee.

The meeting was adjourned.