



Office on Mental Health

Core Service Agency of Harford County, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2022

Minutes

Board Members Present

Jennilyn Landbeck, Christina Alton, Heather Connellee, Jennifer Redding, Diane Shields, Amy Snyder, Naomi Fabricant, Marcy Austin, Tara Lathrop, Jeffrey Burger

Board Members Absent/Excused

Kevin Bianca, Aurora Kahoe (Proxy for Councilman Chad Shrodes)

Staff

Jessica Kraus, Jamie Miller, Leah Keenan

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Board President Christina Alton @ 4:34PM.

II. Review/Acceptance of September 15, 2022 Board Minutes

Board Members reviewed the September 15, 2022 minutes. Tara made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Naomi seconded the motion, and Board members approved the minutes. The vote was unanimous.

III. President's Report

Christina started her report by asking members to share what Thanksgiving dish they look forward to eating every year. Many looked forward to signature dishes made by family members, while others stated they enjoy the traditional dishes. Christina shared her experience on a workshop that focused on gratitude. The intention was to take your feelings and turn them into actions. It is important to practice and notice things you should be thankful for, and the holidays are a perfect time to acknowledge the small things you are thankful for. Some simple things you can do all year long to help express gratitude would be to send letters or emails, put notes in a jar, or start and end your day with an expression of gratitude. This helps create a healthy mind, body, and soul. Christina ended her report by letting all the members know she was grateful for their time, support, and for their service to the board.

IV. Deputy Director's Report

Jamie announced Child and Adolescent Targeted Case Management regulations are currently under review to reduce the restrictions on eligibility, in order to allow programs to serve younger children who need intensive supports. A new bill up for legislative voting is to transition educational funding from Department of Human

Services to Behavioral Health Administration for youth entering residential treatment facilities. This will divert families from going through the burden of a voluntary placement process with Department of Human Services.

The OMH/CSA will be offering Diversity Equity & Inclusion master classes to all staff in January, February, and March of this year.

The OMH/CSA will be a vendor at the county's holiday resource fair on December 6th to hand out behavioral health resources to the community.

V. Executive Director's Report

Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP) Provider Agency Deployed Staff Interest Meeting

Jess announced OMH/CSA staff attended a meeting with BHA staff regarding an initiative to transition individuals from state hospital facilities into appropriate community living environments (i.e., residential rehabilitation programs, assisted living facilities). The grant will pay for an RRP program to employ 3-5 staff to assist individuals with their transition. The OMH/CSA is waiting for more follow up information to make a final decision and will give the board an update at the January meeting.

FY 2024-FY 2026 Plan

There will be a change to the OMH/CSA annual strategic plan. The state is requiring LBHA's to complete a 3-year plan with annual updates. Draft guidelines have gone out to all LBHA's for feedback with a submission date of January 15th. Final guidelines are estimated to come out December 18th. The OMH/CSA will need board approval before submitting, so January's meeting may need to be adjusted to meet the deadline.

Office of Legislative Audits-Maryland Department of Health (MDH)/Administrative Services Organization (ASO) Audit

A recent audit was released highlighting detrimental findings relating to MDH's oversight of the current ASO provider, Optum. Significant delays in payments and lack of documentation for approvals were noted. Many providers have outstanding claims that have not been processed, and Optum was noted for not submitting all the federal match funds for services. MDH is currently drafting a request for proposal for a new ASO provider which will be released in January in hopes to have a provider selected by June 2023. There will be a 12-18 month transition period between providers in an effort to create a smooth transition.

988 updates

The 988 line launched in July 2022. There are five call centers established throughout the state with no plans to expand. The call centers have implemented a text feature for individuals who do not feel comfortable calling. Jess announced she had a meeting with the provider for our jurisdiction, Grass Roots, to establish an ongoing partnership and ensure they were aware of our local crisis hotline. They are currently directing any calls for Harford County residents to the crisis line or local law enforcement, depending on the circumstances. The meeting went well and ongoing communication will continue to ensure Harford County residents are getting linked to appropriate local resources.

VI. Finance Report

Maryland Benefits Counseling Network (MD BCN) Expansion

The MD BCN program has hired additional counselors to assist individuals residing in state hospital facilities to obtain appropriate benefits so they can transition to community living.

FY 2023 Budget YTD update

Leah disseminated the FY 2023 budget year-to-date (YTD) expenditures and reviewed projections to Board Members. There were no questions from any board members.

VII. Upcoming Events & Announcements

- Mental Health Addictions Advisory Council- November 29th

VIII. Adjournment

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at approximately 5:09PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 19th @ 4:30PM. This may change based on the OMH/CSA plan submission timeline. A quorum will be needed to approve the FY 2024 strategic plan.