



## Office on Mental Health

Core Service Agency of Harford County, Inc.

### Board of Directors Meeting September 21, 2023 Minutes

#### **Board Members Present**

Christina Alton, Heather Connellee, Kevin Bianca, Marcy Austin, Jeffrey Burger, Shawn Martin, Jennifer Redding, Jacob Bennett, Lynn Winkler

#### **Board Members Absent/Excused**

Naomi Fabricant, Amy Snyder, Jennilyn Landbeck, Diane Shields

#### **Staff**

Jessica Kraus, Jamie Miller, Leah Keenan, Camryn Blakenship

#### **I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order by Board President Christina Alton @ 4:36 PM. Jess informed board members it would be the last meeting for Diane and Jennilyn, unfortunately both were absent, and took a minute to acknowledge their dedication and service on the board.

#### **II. Review/Acceptance of May 18, 2023 Board Minutes**

Board Members reviewed the May 18, 2023 minutes. Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Kevin seconded the motion, and Board members approved the minutes. The vote was all in favor of accepting the minutes as written.

#### **III. President's Report**

Since fall was approaching, Christina started the meeting by asking members to share if they like pumpkin flavor or not. Turns out the majority of members enjoy pumpkin flavors this time of year. Christina also highlighted that September was suicide prevention month and announced the most recent statistics for death by suicide. Suicide is preventable when we have a community that is educated, sensitive to warning signs, and knows how to respond & support. September is also Recovery month, which started in 1989, to promote new treatment, recovery efforts, and the work of service providers. It has been reported nearly 25% of people believing they need treatment did not receive it because they could not afford it, or they had no insurance. Many also do not receive treatment because they believe they could "handle it" or just simply did not know where to go. Each of these scenarios validates the goal of Recovery month. Christina ended her report by announcing the suicide prevention trainings being taught in middle and high schools, and the new Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) program being implemented in all public schools in the county.

Jess introduced Shawn Martin as the board's newest member. Shawn will be filling the role of the Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (MHAAC) representative.

#### **IV. Personnel Policy Review**

Kevin gave a report out from the personnel committee that met in July to review changes to the personnel policies. The majority of changes reflected updates to applicable laws, telework procedures, overtime, leave time, outside interests, and grievance procedures. As the agency continues to grow it is important to define timelines, processes, and provide

links for easy access to documents. Jacob made a motion to approve the new policy changes as written. Jeff seconded the motion, and Board members approved the recommended changes. The vote was all in favor of accepting the updated Personnel Policies.

**V. Board Treasurer Position (Voting item)**

Jess announced at the last meeting the recommendation for Kevin to serve in the Treasurer role was because she thought the position had term limits. She discovered this was not the case and a new recommendation was made for Amy to continue functioning in this role. The board voted all in favor of continuing with Amy serving as the Board Treasurer.

**VI. Deputy Director Report**

Jamie presented on the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. She distributed handouts which provided information on the background, goals, statewide impact & model, potential services, timelines for funding opportunities and local impacts. Angela, the Child & Adolescent Services Coordinator, with our office has been working closely with the Harford County Public School System in developing a mechanism for reviewing and approving applications as providers apply for funding to become spokes under the Consortium. The OMH/CSA has plans to apply to become a HUB, which would manage all the services (aka spokes) under this initiative. The request for Proposal is slated to come out in November with a due date sometime in December.

**VII. Executive Director Report**

**Unspent Funding Plan**

Jess distributed a handout outlining new initiatives for staff retention and performance incentives, which will be implemented throughout the year to reduce any unspent funding from areas that are unexpected, such as job vacancies, fringe line items, consultant & legal fees, etc.

**Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP) & Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Expansion**

The Behavioral Health Administration disseminated a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) in June for RRP providers to expand the number of beds in order to serve individuals transitioning from state hospitals, with the option to include a portion of general beds in the proposal. Jess announced Keypoint Health Services was approved to expand their RRP beds. They will add an additional 8 intensive (for state hospital individuals) and 2 general beds (for community referrals). Our office is currently working on providing technical assistance with implementation as the Behavioral Health Administration wants the program to start accepting individuals in the additional beds starting January 2024.

The OMH/CSA was awarded additional funds to expand the Permanent Supportive Housing program from serving 50 individuals to 75 individuals. The staff has grown from one (1) FTE to three (3) FTE, and the program is currently soliciting to hire a supervisor to oversee the program.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

Jess gave the history of the funding source for the Crisis Intervention Team program and announced Shawn's resignation as the coordinator for the program. With his departure the program is now transitioning from the administrative office and will operate under Harford Crisis Response. Shawnta, Jamie, and a consultant are working on rebuilding the program. This includes updating the job description (roles & responsibilities), revising the policies and procedures, identifying new data mechanisms,

and strengthening partnerships with all law enforcement agencies. The OMH/CSA is currently soliciting for a CIT coordinator.

**Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)/Maryland Department of Health (MDH)**

MDH Secretary of Health Dr. Herrera Scott announced Alyssa Lord as the new Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health. Alyssa has an extensive background working with homeless and HIV programs. Both will be attending the MABHA retreat in October to learn about the work the Local Behavioral Health Authorities are doing in their county.

**Life Matters Suicide Prevention & Recovery Conference**

The OMH/CSA is co-hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Life Matters conference with the Local Addictions Authority. The virtual conference will be held September 29, 2023. The keynote speaker this year will be Drew Robinson, who survived a suicide attempt that resulted in the loss of his right eye. His story is truly inspiring, and we look forward to hearing him speak. The breakout sessions will consist of clinical and general education options around suicide prevention and recovery efforts. The planning committee is working out the final details and everyone is encouraged to spread the word.

**VIII. Finance Report**

**FY 2024 YTD Budget Update**

Leah disseminated the FY 2024 budget year-to-date (YTD) expenditures and reviewed projections to Board members. Leah highlighted a couple of line items that are pending changes; expected new initiatives, CIT vacancy and MABHA dues. There were no questions from any Board members on the line items presented.

**IX. Upcoming Events & Announcements**

Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (Town Hall)- September 26th

Life Matters Suicide Prevention & Recovery Conference (Virtual)- September 29<sup>th</sup>

**X. Adjournment**

The Board of Directors closed the meeting at approximately 5:32PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023 @ 4:30PM and will be held virtually (ZOOM).