



Office on Mental Health

Core Service Agency of Harford County, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

January 18, 2024

Minutes

Board Members Present

Christina Alton, Heather Connellee, Amy Snyder, Kevin Bianca, Naomi Fabricant, Shawn Martin, Heather Cantos on behalf of Jacob Bennett, Lynn Winkler, LaToya White

Board Members Absent/Excused

Marcy Austin, Jennifer Redding, Alexis Coleman

Staff

Jessica Kraus, Leah Keenan

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Board President Christina Alton @ 4:32 PM. Jess welcomed the Board members, and Christina led an activator asking members to introduce themselves and share their favorite winter activity.

II. Review/Acceptance of November 9, 2023 Board Minutes

Board Members reviewed the November 9, 2023 minutes. Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Naomi 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

Christina started off her report with sharing resolutions are not always good for one's mental health. Instead, we should try to be the best versions of ourselves.

IV. Independent Auditors' Report Presentation (Dan Harrington, Olena Bilonog, Francis MacEwan from Grandizio, Wilkins, Little, & Matthews, LLP (GWLM))

The OMH/CSA's independent audit for FY 2023 was presented to the Board of Directors. Members were provided with the draft Single Audit and Financial Statements, as well as a list of discussion items from GWLM. Overall, FY 2023 went well. The auditors provided an unqualified opinion for both the financial statements audit and the single audit. Everything was consistent with the prior year; there were no unusual changes noted. Dan recommended the agency should consider opening a money market account to earn interest.

V. FY 2024 Budget Modification & FY 2025 Proposed Budget

The Budget Review Committee (Amy & Kevin) provided Board Members with a synopsis of their meeting with Jess & Leah. During this meeting, it was discussed BHA awarded an increase to funding beginning 1/1/2024, as well as an additional COLA increase effective 7/1/2024. Amy and Kevin recommended the Board consider providing OMH/CSA with a 4% COLA effective 1/1/2024. Naomi made a motion to approve the

recommendation and Lynn seconded the motion. All Board members voted to approve the recommendation. Amy and Kevin then presented the proposed FY 2025 budget which included a 4% COLA for OMH/CSA staff. Amy and Kevin made the recommendation to approve the FY 2025 budget as drafted. Shawn made a motion to approve the budget, and Naomi seconded the motion. Board members voted to approve the FY 2025 budget.

VI. Deputy Director Report

Jess provided a report on behalf of Jamie. Jess reported out on the following programs:

- SOAR: interviewing for the community SOAR specialist position
- CIT: hired a retired law enforcement deputy from HCSO to replace Shawn as the CIT Coordinator
- Consortium: OMH/CSA applied to become a HUB. There were 17 applicants and awards should be announced in February or March. There were 258 spoke applications for the state. Awards will be announced in January or February.
- Power of Expression (new suicide prevention initiative): contracting with the Ed Lally Foundation to provide five suicide prevention trainings at HCPS
- Safe Storage (new suicide prevention initiative): funding will pay for safe storage lockers for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis; funding will also be used to train two QPR trainers
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD): contracts have been executed with Bel Air Police Department & Klein Family Center; discussed purpose of program
- Teen Diversion: Harford County Health Department closed the program on 1/12/24. Jamie & Angela will be working with BHA to determine next steps with funding.

VII. Executive Director Report

FY 2025 Annual Plan Review

Jess provided an overview of the FY 2025 Annual Report. Jess highlighted the key components of the plan which included highlights and achievements in FY 2023, key priorities for FY 2024 through FY 2026, data and planning, and updates on behavioral health integration. All board members will receive a copy of the annual report once it is reviewed and approved by BHA.

BHA Challenges & Changes/Statewide Contracts

Jess discussed some challenges and changes the agency has been experiencing related to BHA and the new administration. Jess talked about offline conversations she has had with BHA program staff and decisions being made to remove statewide contracts from the agency. Jess informed the Board she would most likely need their involvement should things continue to escalate.

OTB (Administrative)

Jess announced the Over the Base (OTB) funding proposal to hire a Clinical Director for the administrative team was approved by BHA. Funding would be increased beginning FY 2025. Jess cautioned the agency would need to wait on recruitment due to the

uncertainty of the statewide contracts which have contributed funding to the administrative budget.

Your Mind Matters Event

The OMH/CSA will be hosting the 3rd Your Mind Matter event on May 31st at Ripken Stadium. More details will be disseminated later.

VIII. Finance Report

FY 2024 YTD Budget Update

Leah disseminated the FY 2024 budget year-to-date (YTD) expenditures during the FY 2025 budget modification discussion. There were no questions or concerns related to the budget.

IX. Upcoming Events & Announcements

Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council- January 30th
Your Mind Matters @ Ripken Stadium-May 31st

X. Adjournment

The Board of Directors closed the meeting at approximately 5:30PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024 @ 4:30PM and will be held via Zoom.