

Commission to Study Mental & Behavioral Health

June 23, 2020

4:00-6:00PM

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome Remarks – Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford

Introduced the following new members to the Commission:

- Commissioner Kathleen Biranne, Maryland Insurance Administration
- Delegate Lewis Young, Maryland House of Delegates

II. Roll Call/Attendees

Participants: Senator Adelaide Eckardt, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Delegate Ariana Kelly, Delegate Lewis Young, Richard Abbott, Dennis Schrader, Dr. Aliya Jones, Major Roland Butler, Dr. Lynda Bonieskie, Director Steve Schuh, Christian Miele, Mary Gable, Barbara Allen, Patricia Miedusiewski, Dr. Bhaskara Tripuraneni, Cari Cho & Serina Eckwood

Absent: Dr. Randi Walters

III. Sub-Committee Update:

- a) Crisis Services - Director Steve Schuh, (Co-Chair):
 - Last met December 2019
 - Focusing on prioritizing the development of a comprehensive crisis coordination system where all Marylanders will have access to services regardless of where they live
 - The Pandemic has added a new urgency to crisis work as it has had an impact on mental health & substance use habits
 - Partnering with Behavioral Health Administration as well as the MD Medicaid Administration to learn more about outpatient mental health centers (OMHC)
 - Next meeting is June 24 at 10:00am and will be held virtually
- b) Youth & Families - Deputy Secretary Christian Miele & Dr. Randi Walters:
 - Next meeting is June 29 at 1:00pm

- c) Financing & Funding – Dennis Schrader, (Co-Chair):
- Spent 2019 organizing change initiative around system of care and we were hoping to move that forward this year
 - With COVID, we had to reassess what the appropriate focus should be while we are in the crisis
 - Decided on two goals:
 - Working on crisis services model and financial options
 - Staying focused on Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization that went live in January. It was not satisfactory so we went to a system of estimated payments. Anticipate reactivation in July
- d) Public Safety & Justice System – Co-Chairs Senator Katie Fry Hester & Dr. Lynda Bonieskie
- Next meeting is on July 16 at 10am
 - Focusing on Sequential Intercept Model
 - Looks at the 6 intercepts
 - Community Services
 - Law Enforcement
 - Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings
 - Jails/Courts
 - ReEntry
 - Community Corrections
 - Cari Cho – Looking into using model this for social services as well
 - Update on DPSCS in regards to COVID:
 - Secretary collaborated with the Judicial System consistently to set up video connections with courts to conduct judicial proceedings
 - Since the end of April, worked with the Mental Health Court of Baltimore City and conducted 24 virtual psychiatric evaluations
 - Collaborated with MDH to set up safety protocols and testing for mental health patients

IV. Special Presentation:

Ariel Judah, Deputy Director of Federal Relations: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and Federal Resources

*Presentation can be viewed on the Commission's webpage

V. Written Testimony Summaries:

- 18 Submissions with following topics:

- In support of the 4% increase in the fiscal year 2020 budget for behavioral health services
- Challenges with administrative services organization transition to Optum
- Support for expanding telehealth services even after the Pandemic
- Sequential Intercept Model
- Support in HB1300, also known as the Kirwan Bill
- Maryland must do more to comply with 2008 Mental Health Parity Equity Act
- Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Support of the following:
 - Increasing funding to harm reduction programs and declaring services essential and lifesaving programs
 - Decriminalizing the possession and distribution of drug paraphernalia for personal use
 - Establishing overdose prevention sites

*Written testimony can be submitted up until 5:00PM on June 24 to be included in this meetings' materials. Materials can be accessed on the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health's Webpage.

VI. Closing Remarks:

Webpage: [Ltgovernor.maryland.gov/mbhcommission](https://www.governor.maryland.gov/mbhcommission)