

**Howard County Health Department Bureau of Behavioral Health
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Behavioral Health Provider Call #10**

Howard County COVID-19 and Vulnerable Population: Veterans and Caregivers
05/27/2020 – 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Virtual Meeting held via WebEx

Minutes

Members Present:

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| Candace Ball, Howard County Local Children’s Board | Jennifer McCann, Kolmac |
| Robin Bartko, The Parent Rescue | Keith McGuire, KMASS Solutions |
| Miriam Bennett, HC Health Department | Colleen Nester, HC Health Department |
| Shereen Cabrera Bentley, HC Health Department | Paul Rivers, Community Member |
| Karen Hull, HC Department of Community Resources and Services | Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, HC Health Department |
| Greg Jolissaint, Trinity Health | Claudia Salomon, HC Health Department |
| Sonya Lloyd, HC Health Department | Emma Schreier, HC Health Department |
| | John Way, The VAWay |

Guests Present:

- Malissa Barber, Program Manager, Serving Together Connecting Veterans
Mallary T. Lass, USAF Ret Outreach Manager, Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals
Angel Powell, Southern Regional Resource Coordinator, Service Access and Practice Innovation, Behavioral Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health

Staff Present:

- Kelly Kesler, HCLHIC Director, HCHD
Seojin Kim, HCLHIC Program Coordinator, HCHD

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Opening Remarks	<p>Kelly Kesler, Director of the Howard County LHIC, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Director of the Howard County Health Department’s Bureau of Behavioral Health offered key information and resources related to behavioral health & the COVID-19 and reviewed the goals and agenda for the meeting. Ms. Kesler introduced guest speakers to members and kicked off the meeting.</p>	<p>Coalition members may obtain all the meeting materials including handouts, recording and additional resources visits LHIC website : http://www.hclhic.org/news-events/lhic-and-partner-events/seminars-and-educational-events</p> <p>Coalition members are asked to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health FAQ’s • Behavioral Health Provider FAQ’s <p>LHIC members are encouraged to visit the following websites to learn more about the COVID-19 updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCHD Bureau of Behavioral Health During COVID-19

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCHD Youtube • HCHD Facebook • HCHD Instagram • LHIC COVID-19 Update • LHIC Behavioral Health Resources • BHA Latest Information or email at bhainquiries@maryland.gov
Serving Together Connecting Veterans and COVID-19	<p>Melissa Barber, Program Manager of <i>Serving Together Connecting Veterans</i>, provided an overview on her organization and its primary services.</p> <p>Ms. Barber stated that their intake screening tool found that about 53% of their veteran clients' requests were highly associated with COVID-19 during the current national emergency and their top concerns included income support, employment, etc.</p> <p>Ms. Barber asked members to share the upcoming free educational events with their communities.</p>	<p>For more information about Serving Together Connecting Veterans visit https://servingtogetherproject.org/ or contact Melissa Barber via email to mbarber@every-mind.org.</p>
Maryland's Commitment to Veterans and COVID-19	<p>Angel Powell, Southern Regional Resource Coordinator of Maryland Behavioral Health Administration, started her presentation about <i>Maryland Commitment to Veterans (MCV) and COVID-19</i>.</p> <p>Ms. Powell provided members with an overview on major services, program eligibility, and etc. Ms. Powell stated that Crisis Funding, a one-time grant of up to \$500 is now available for veterans who need behavioral health assistance during the COVID-19.</p> <p>Ms. Powell also highlighted key issues heard in calls from Veterans over the past two months of the COVID-19. In addition, in response to a question, Ms. Powell discussed strategies being used by MCV to improve access to existing services among vulnerable clients who have limited access such as homeless. In addition, Ms. Powell indicated that training is available for providers and groups seeking to provide Veterans support group services.</p>	<p>For questions about Maryland's Commitment to Veterans program visit https://veterans.health.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx .</p> <p>For information about Operation Roll Call, https://servingtogetherproject.org/marylands-commitment-to-veterans-operation-roll-call/?fbclid=IwAR1QFrUvIQiiGepvMi9qGtGP8Cevtc29HREVVumkq1pbGR52rC9dpcXbCUE.</p> <p>For additional information individuals may also contact Angel Powell with more questions at bha.mcv@maryland.gov.</p>
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at	<p>Mallary T. Lass, USAF Ret, Outreach Manager of <i>Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals</i>, presented her organization's operational strategies to continue to offer their</p>	<p>For more information about community services and information available for veterans and their caregivers are encouraged to visit:</p>

<p>Easterseals and COVID-19</p>	<p>clients current services during the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Ms. Lass stated that all programs have been transited to online/telephonic types of services. For instance, clients are requested to complete an initial intake via 24/7 phone-call and can receive face-to-face video therapy through HIPAA compliant Zoom platform during the current pandemic.</p> <p>Ms. Lass shared that incidents of stress and anxiety related to COVID-19 among veteran communities in Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area have been increasing.</p> <p>Upcoming virtual wellness workshops and events hosted by <i>Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic</i> were shared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals • Virtual Tour of the Cohen Clinic at Easterseals • Cohen Clinic Connections Newsletter <p>Additional questions may be directed to Mallary T. Lass via email to mlass@eseal.org.</p>
<p>Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families and COVID-19</p>	<p>Lisa B. Terry, Manager of <i>Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families</i>, discussed the programs and services available through the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services.</p> <p>John Way, with VA Way shared the local Howard County Resource VA Way.</p>	<p>LHIC coalition members may contact Lisa Terry with questions about her presentation at veterans@howardcountymd.gov or visit http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans</p> <p>The 2019 Howard County Veterans Resource Guide can be found at: https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Community-Resources-and-Services/Office-of-Veterans-and-Military-Families</p> <p>For information about the VA Way's programs and trainings, contact John Way at Johnway@vaway.org or visit https://www.vaway.org</p>
<p>Q&A and Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Ms. Kesler adjourned the work group meeting at 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Participants are asked to complete the COVID-19 Behavioral Health Provider Calls Satisfaction Survey by June 3, 2020 at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BH_Covid_Calls</p> <p>Members who have questions for COVID-19 related supplies are encouraged to email at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q7MPHNM</p>

		<p>Coalition members who are interested in COVID-19 medical assistance are encouraged to contact HCHD COVID-19 Hotline at 410-313-6284 or email at askhealth@howardcountymd.gov</p> <p>For more information about the Howard County LHIC contact Kelly Kesler at kkseler@howardcountymd.gov</p>
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Future Meeting Dates:

- Virtual Full Coalition Meeting June 11, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Please register for the meeting via the link <https://bit.ly/35iyhSt>
- Quarterly Behavioral Health Provider Meeting July 24, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Please register for the meeting via the link <https://bit.ly/2XEK2UH>

Respectfully submitted by
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Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition