

**LHIC Behavioral Health Work Group Meeting**  
**9.24.15 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Members present:**

Stu Kohn, HC Citizens Association  
Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, HC Health Dept.  
Maura Rossman, HC Health Dept.  
Antigone Vickery, HC Health Dept.  
Max Pettis, Alfa Specialty Pharmacy  
Joan Webb Scornaienchi, HC DrugFree  
Kaya Swann, HC Dept. of Citizen Services  
Beverley Francis-Gibson, NAMI HC  
Bryan Johnson, On Our Own of Howard County  
Leslie Kain, NAMI HC  
Leah Blain, Chase Brexton  
Deb Piez, HC Mental Health Authority

**Also present:**

Jeananne Sciabarra, Healthy Howard  
Priyanka Shah, MD DHMH

**Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Roe opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Members introduced themselves. The group unanimously approved the minutes.

**Revisions to the 2015-2017 Action Plan**

Roe reviewed the changes to the Action Plan discussed at the last meeting. An asterisk was added to the “lead” agencies for each action. Roe asked that members review the lead agencies and ensure that they are appropriate and willing to serve as the leads. Roe also noted that she clarified the wording on the drug overdose actions, pulling the wording from DHMH data.

Beverley asked that NAMI HC be included in the partners for crisis intervention training.

**Announcements**

Roe shared information about training on Ethical Considerations in Suicide Prevention, which will be held on November 21. This will be advertised through the LHIC Digest.

Roe also noted that September is Recovery Month and there will be a meet and greet with On Our Own’s new Executive Director, Bryan Johnson. (DATE/TIME?)

October 16 is the Out of Darkness Walk from 9:00 to 12:00.

Joan announced that HC DrugFree has created displays to be distributed to pharmacies and about 2000 medical waiting areas to advertise the permanent drug collection boxes in the county.

Beverley noted that NAMI is hosting an education forum in November about depression during the holidays.

Deb noted that HC MHA is meeting with congregations about conducting Mental Health First Aid trainings.

### **Goal 2: Reduce the number of suicides in Howard County**

The group discussed the data and information that Donna had provided prior to the meeting, including 2014 suicide data for Howard County.

It was noted that there was no header information on the suicide data. Staff will add and resend.

Leslie asked if we could get data comparing Howard County to other areas.

Leah asked if the group has information on whether the individuals who committed suicide in 2014 were in care and what their prior hospital usage was.

Beverley discussed recent suicides of NAMI members. She noted that Grassroots counselors had been brought in to help members cope with the loss.

Maura noted that there are often only 5 minutes between the time a person has the thought to commit suicide and he or she acts on that thought, pointing to the need for strategies to decrease access to things like guns and pills.

Leah mentioned a VA initiative that distributed gun locks to patients. Joan noted that HC DrugFree advises parents to lock up medications just as they do guns.

The group discussed generating a public service announcement around decreasing access to means for suicide. This could be directed to practitioners and include information on assessing for gun safety and access to guns or other means. Or it could be directed to residents in general and perhaps distributed through the school system. Leah will do some work on this to share with the group.

Maura noted that someone at the last Child Fatality Review team meeting mentioned that gun retailers were promoting gun safety and getting help for behavioral health conditions.

Beverley will reach out to Tamara at Grassroots to ask her to present about their suicide reduction programs at the October meeting.

Leslie asked the group about the availability of medication dispensers that would control access to pills that could be used to commit suicide. Max mentioned that he had heard something about this. He and Leslie will research and report back to the group.

### **Next Meeting**

Because the October meeting was scheduled for Columbus Day, the group completed a Doodle poll to choose an alternate date. The meeting will be held Monday, October 26, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

### **Action Items**

- Staff will add header information to the suicide data that Donna provided and resend to members.
- Staff will update data tracking sheets and email to all to include in their member handbooks.

- Roe will email Donna to find out if there is data about whether those who committed suicide in 2014 were in care.
- Staff will research suicide data in other parts of the state and send to group.
- Beverley will send information on NAMI's November education forum to staff for inclusion in the Digest.
- Beverley will invite Tamara from Grassroots to the next meeting.
- Leah will create a draft PSA around suicide prevention for the group to review.
- Max and Leslie will research timed pill dispensers and report back to the group.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeananne Sciabarra  
Director, Health Care Transformation