

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition

July 19, 2022

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Candace Ball, Local Children's Board
Genny LaPorte, Howard County Police Department Crisis Intervention Team
Laura Torres, Howard County General Hospital
Emily Paterson, Maryland Poison Center
Tiffany Erbeling, Partner
Barbara Allen, Opioid Crisis Community Council
Karen Hull, Office on Aging/MAP
Laura Willemin, Partner

Staff Present:

Reena Rambharat, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
Leah Bulka, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

I. Suicide Prevention FY22 Activity Updates

a. BHA Office of Suicide Prevention data update

- BHA Office of Suicide Prevention has rolled out new request system for data related to suicide. If there are specific data trends you are interested in, let Leah know and she can ask BHA what metrics are available
- BHA is working on creating a dashboard for real time data similar to what exists for opioid fatalities in the state
 - Looking for support across the state in advocating to VSA and OCME for real time data
- BHA plans to share quarterly OCME data to LBHAs by end of 2022, but this data will be for internal review only
 - OCME data changes month to month as death investigations progress and can even change 1-2 years later
- Important info about data:
 - VSA county data is for where incident occurred, *not* for county of residence
 - All numbers less than 11 have to be suppressed and raw counts/spreadsheets can only be shared with state/county employees
 - Data pre-2017 is not available due to changes in how suicide death data was coded – unable to directly compare data from before 2017 with more recent data
- Leah put in formal request for 2017-2020 Vital Statistics Administration data on suicide deaths (pulled July 19, 2022) and shared overarching trends (unfortunately not able to be shared via minutes)

- Laura T. asked for information on context around decrease in suicide deaths from 2019 to 2020 – does BHA know what might have contributed to this change? Are there contributing factors that could be replicated?
- Coalition members also interested in poisoning definitions in the data – does BHA have access to data breakdown of substances (ie, medications/illicit substances vs chemicals)?
- BHA Office of Suicide Prevention is interested in learning about what local trends jurisdictions are seeing in their work to help them track trends
 - If you notice patterns in crisis calls, hospital encounters, attempts, and so on, that might hint at larger trends reflected at state level, please share with Leah/Bureau of Behavioral Health

b. CAMS-care Pilot data update

- In FY22, BBH facilitated the training of 10 Howard County clinicians in CAMS-care: <https://cams-care.com/>
- New funding is available for FY23 to train up to 30 Howard County clinicians – we are requesting support in advertising the opportunity once recruitment begins in late July/early August
- Individuals served by the 10 trained clinicians so far are representative of target populations for the project including Black/African American individuals, Asian American individuals, individuals identifying as transgender or nonbinary, and Medicaid recipients

c. It's Ok to Ask campaign update

- FY22 digital marketing campaign for It's Ok to Ask just concluded and was very successful
 - Click through rate 3-4x industry average
 - Digital campaign targeted older adults, young adults/transition aged youth, South Asian community, and Asian American and Pacific Islander community
 - May have ability to target other audiences in FY23 – Latinx community, African American teens, LGBTQIA community, and veterans/service members are groups to choose from

II. Community Outreach

a. Healthy Living Series workshop

- Workshop series in partnership with library and HCHD
- [July 26th at 7 pm](#) – Navigating the landscape of mental health resources in Howard County
- [August 2nd at 7 pm](#) – Nutrition and brain health

b. Extreme Risk Protective Orders & Safe Storage

i. Safer home campaigns

- BBH intern is working on ERPO handouts to raise awareness about ERPO and safe storage options in the region
 - Coalition members provided feedback on language in handout draft to reduce stigma around mental health
 - Next draft of materials will be shared with Coalition members for feedback
- BBH and Child Fatality Review working on a “safer home” graphic similar to the Colorado graphic linked above

- Leah requested feedback on means represented in a potential safer home graphic – medications, firearms, household objects like chemicals or rope, window safety/fall prevention, blind cords
- Candace added garage/shed safety (tools, knives) and hand sanitizer as materials that would be helpful to Local Care Team families
- Tiffany suggested overlaying resources on safe guarding your home handout, such as Emotional Support Human, HC Drug Free, It's Ok to Ask

c. 988 launch update

- 988 soft launched on 7/16
- 988 Community Ambassador trainings began this week
- Grassroots is gearing up for 988 – Laura Willemin expressed that there was an increase in texts and chats following launch

III. Discussion: Subcommittees

a. Prevention, Intervention, Postvention

b. Possible topics:

- i. Prevention: Universal screening
- ii. Prevention: Reducing access to lethal means
- iii. Intervention: Behavioral health integration in primary care
- iv. Postvention: Developing a LOSS Team or suicide bereavement training

- Leah requested feedback on subcommittees broken down into Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention – asked if folks are interested in joining a subcommittee and offered options for activities
- Goal of subcommittees is to support work already happening in the community with coordinated, collaborative activities
- Barbara suggested raising awareness about existing bereavement services
 - Grassroots Survivors of Suicide Loss is expanding to have a second group due to demand
 - GRASP
 - The Compassionate Friends
- Karen is working on a new pilot called Grief Chat for 50+ Centers – seeing a need for grief support/resources for older adults
 - Has created an informal resource guide

IV. Action items and next steps

- Notify Leah/BBH if you are interested in joining a subcommittee or have a specific activity you would like to participate in
- Share local patterns or trends you have noticed in your work with Leah/BBH to form data requests for BHA's Office of Suicide Prevention
- Share information about the Healthy Living Workshop Series and 988 with your networks
- Next meeting will be in late August or early September – Doodle poll to be sent