



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition

March 13, 2024

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Barbara Allen, James Place/Opioid Collaborative Community Council
Michelle Clark, Howard County Health Department
Jessica Fisher, Howard County Health Department
Jessica LaFave, Department of Veterans Affairs (Maryland)
Genny LaPorte, Howard County Police Department
Sonya Lloyd, Howard County Health Department
Sarah McCoy, Grassroots Crisis Intervention
Steve Miller, The Alpha Foundation of Howard County Inc.
Emily Paterson, Maryland Poison Control Center
Stephanie Reid, Howard County Health Department
Lauren Soummers, Howard County Health Department
Janice Stanton, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Lisa Terry, Office of Veterans and Military Families
Eileen Zeller, Moms Demand Action Howard County

Staff Present:

Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome/Ice Breaker	Jessica Fisher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Ms. Fisher provided a welcome to members in attendance and had members introduce themselves in the chat box.	Members are urged to review the past minutes available at: https://www.hclhic.org/home/MeetingYears/363
Processing & Safe Messaging Presentation	Jessica LaFave, Department of Veterans Affairs, started the meeting with an opportunity to process the tragedy that occurred mid-January in Howard County.	

Barbara Allen, James Place/Opioid Collaborative Community Council, shared that she heard the news from a resident that knew one of those that passed. She was able to provide postvention resources in that moment.

Eileen Zeller, Moms Demand Action Howard County, discussed with her Senator policy issues that can be proposed to prevent this from happening in the future.

Lisa Terry, Office of Veterans and Military Families, mentioned that the local VFW has established a Mental Health Committee.

Stephanie Reid, Howard County Health Department, iterated that she is interested in seeing more violence prevention focus in Howard County. She mentioned that there may be a gap in the knowledge of Howard County residents regarding violence prevention.

Ms. LaFave, mentioned that June is PTSD Awareness Month, which can be an opportunity to promote violence prevention supports in the county. Further she shared that the VA has implemented a relationship health screening that screens for inter-partner violence.

Ms. Zeller, shared that Moms Demand Action will be hosting a QPR training April 17th at the Central branch Library.

Ms. Fisher, iterated the coalitions previous efforts to create safe storage/lethal means materials for residents. She inquired if creating something that emulates the brochures Rhode Island or Colorado created should be the next objective for HMSPC. Members agreed to begin developing a safe homes brochure for the county and considered developing multiple brochures based on demographics/age/needs. Ms. Fisher and Ms. LaFave mentioned it may be conducive to have a brochure



	<p>geared towards children/families and one geared towards the general population.</p> <p>Ms. LaFave, began her presentation on safe messaging best practices. The purpose of the presentation was to teach members how to talk about suicide in a safe and responsible way that also reduces stigma. Key things to avoid include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the language “committed suicide” • Using the language “successful suicide or completed/uncompleted suicide • Saying the suicide was random or was caused by a single or specific event or a mental health disorder • Discussing suicide without listing resources or help lines • Using the language “hero/heroic” or “warrior” when talking about someone who died by suicide <p>Sarah McCoy, Grassroots Crisis Intervention, iterated that there may not be enough accessible materials out there for safe storage of firearms that is non-stigmatizing to gun-owners. Further she shared that Grassroots is trained in safe messaging when talking about suicide and that safe messaging training may be beneficial coalition members.</p>	
<p>Next Steps Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Fisher, discussed plans and initiatives for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. There are plans to encourage communities and buildings to “light up green” for Mental Health Awareness Week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lisa Terry, shared that the county does Operation Green Light around Veterans Day and it may be more feasible to light up for Mental Health Awareness week instead of the entire month. Further she mentioned handing out green lightbulbs for residents to use on their porches during the month of May. 	<p>Members interested in more information on Operation Green Light can visit here: https://conduitstreet.mdcounties.org/2023/10/26/operation-green-light-illuminating-the-path-to-veterans-well-being-in-md/</p> <p>Members interested in more information on National Poison Prevention Week or National Drug Take Back day can visit here: https://www.mdpoison.com/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fisher, shared that she has gotten commitments from community organizations in Howard County to light up green in May. She is working on getting the health department to light up green during Mental Health Awareness Month. • Ms. Emily Paterson, Maryland Poison Control Center, shared that National Poison Prevention Week is March 17th – 23rd. Also National Drug Take-back day is April 27th. 	<p>Members interested in more information on Mental Health Awareness Month can visit here: https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month</p> <p>Members interested in “lighting up green” for Mental Health Awareness Month can visit here: https://www.mhamd.org/green/</p>
<p>Announcements Next Steps & Wrap-up</p>	<p>Mr. Fisher mentioned the next HMSPC Meeting will be May 2nd, 2024, 2:00pm-3:00pm</p> <p>Jessica Fisher adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.</p>	