

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition

June 7, 2022

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Cynthia Schulmeyer, Howard County Health Department
Sarah McCoy, Grassroots Crisis Intervention
Candace Ball, Local Children's Board
Erin Anderson, Howard County Health Department Child Fatality Review
Barbara Allen, Opioid Crisis Community Council
Laura Torres, Howard County General Hospital
Emily Paterson, Maryland Poison Center
Tiffany Erbeling, Partner
Chloe McGeehan, Partner
Jason Zhao, Community Member
Stephanie Reid, Howard County Health Department Bureau of Behavioral Health

Staff Present:

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

Meeting Goals/Outline:

- Review recommendations from Suicide Prevention Forum
- Learn about OCCC and discuss how we can work together
- Discuss how to move forward with momentum from Forum

I. Greetings & Introductions

II. Suicide Prevention Forum Follow Up

Brief summary:

- Dr. Ramchand shared preliminary data showing a decline in the national suicide rate from 2018 – 2020. The decline represents a decline in white suicide deaths, as white Americans have the highest suicide rate in the country. However, there were increases in the suicide rates of African Americans, Indigenous Americans, and Latinx Americans.
- Dr. Ramchand also noted a large increase in the unintentional drug poisoning rate during the same time period. He shared that intentionality is difficult to determine and just a few misclassifications in cause of death could cause a swing in suicide rates.
- Central TX library initiative is training nonclinical health workers to conduct mental health outreach with library patrons. They are trained in motivational interviewing, help

manage low severity symptoms, help schedule appointments, and refer to higher levels of care when needed.

- Panelists were asked to describe the 3 things they would like to see in their dream scenario of community collaboration to address suicide and behavioral health. Panelist recommendations can be found on pages 6 and 7 of attached PPT.

III. Sharing: Barbara Allen & OCCC

- Barbara is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of James' Place Inc, which raises funds to provide scholarships for recovery services: <http://jamesplaceinc.org/>
- OCCC is the Opioid Community Crisis Council in Howard County
- Members of the council include community stakeholders and County employees, including staff working in criminal justice
- OCCC identifies gaps and opportunities to address substance misuse and makes recommendations to the County Executive.
- OCCC are not limited to opioids, also address alcohol and stimulants
- Subcommittees include Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery; Communications and Community Engagement; and Enforcement and Adjudication
- August 31st is National Overdose Awareness Day
- Phrase "unintentional drug poisoning" is being used more frequently across the country, particularly in light of Fentanyl-related deaths
- Barbara participates in [The Compassionate Friends](#), which is a support group for any parent, grandparent, or caregiver who has lost a child, and facilitates Facebook groups for loss survivors, as well
- Barbara can be reached about James' Place or bereavement resources at JamesPlaceInc@comcast.net

IV. Discussion: Next steps?

- Chloe will be volunteering with HCHD and the library system this summer – she is interested in developing workshops on a range of issues, including bereavement, unintentional poisoning, behavioral health education
- Reena shared that HCHD staff are approached by parents in need of resources/education on how to have conversations with children/family about issues they're experiencing
 - Could be helpful to have trainings for organizations and stakeholders
 - Gatekeeper trainings?
- Could expand trainings beyond parents for target audience to address community members who are concerned about grandchildren, neighbors, friends, coworkers
- Jason expressed that youth in the Asian American community face a lot of pressures from different aspects of life: academics, racism and discrimination at school, internal pressure due to parental sacrifice
 - Sees need to educate parents on pressures youth face and how to talk to them about difficult topics --> could be through community events to reduce stigma, parents will attend if messaging is that it will benefit their children
 - Would be helpful to have communication between HCPSS and parents about messaging that families should be sharing with youth at home re: mental health

- Appx 300 families are beginning a Community Health Initiative and first topic is mental health --> not affiliated with any one agency in Howard County, have 3 upcoming events for the summer
- LHIC will begin residential communities outreach program to provide chronic disease management education and resources --> would like training for staff on how to talk about mental health as its closely connected to physical health
- Laura shared that motivational interviewing skills are including in CHW training at HCGH through [Patient Engagement Training](#) from Hopkins

V. Agency updates

- Coalition members wondering about 988 rollout timeline and when to replace marketing materials (particularly those that advertise 2-1-1 like cards Barbara and HCHD developed)
 - Crisis centers will keep their direct phone numbers
 - Unclear how long 2-1-1 will remain active after 988 rollout
- Soft launch for 988 is July 16th - “soft” because need to be sure they can manage the calls
- GBRICS is waiting on giving out 988 printed materials
- GBRICS is recruiting 988 Ambassadors to share info about the rollout, what it is for, how it will work, and why someone would want to call
 - Looking for trusted community members to share information with their networks
- HCGH is recruiting faith members for Congregational Depression Awareness Program – can be any member, does not need to be a faith leader