



Meeting Minutes December 6, 2023

Welcome/Introductions – Jennifer McCready, LAA Director

William Webb, Health Officer - KCHD - Welcome everyone. At the last meeting some time was spent talking about the Opioid settlement funds that are coming to the county and how best to distribute. One of the things that we really need to do is formalize the participation and governance of this particular body. I have received the regulations from Judge Nunn, and updated our LDAAC participant list. There are two different classes of participants that are going to be voting in the LDAAC, those who are in an ex-officio capacity, and 6 or 7 individuals who were appointed by the County Commissioner. Appointed position recommendations have been sent to the county commissioner for review.

This council has to comply with the open meeting act and publish the agenda 24 hours in advance and make it available to the public if they want to participate, and to publish the minutes. The plan is to use the Kent County Government page. It is in the works so that we are in compliance with the open meetings act. We are also developing some bylaws/operational governance mechanisms on how to use the funds.

The Opioid Abatement plan for 2023-2024 has undergone preliminary update. Jennifer worked with Annette Duckery and Carla Thorpe. After the core members of LDAAC have been reviewed by the County Commissioner, those members can break into subcommittees. Then, as a collective whole we can present it to everyone for approval and input and then revise as necessary.

Carla Thorpe - AF Whitsitt Center Walk-in mornings have been expanded, Monday thru Friday and two evening walk-ins. A meeting later in the week with Shore Regional Emergency Departments, clinical managers and social workers on streamlining the admission process from the emergency department to AF Whitsitt Center.

We are happy to report that we had our CARF accreditation visit and received a 3 year accreditation.

Kathryn Dilley - MSBH - We are in the process of working on our FY 25 community behavioral health plan, which encompasses our LDAAC's in the region. A presentation for your endorsement will be on February 1st, from 4 to 6 pm. It will be a hybrid meeting at MSBH or in person virtual presentation for voting and support.

Also in February we are organizing and hosting our first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference. The theme is going to be Inclusion and Beyond and will be hosted in Kent County at Minary's Dream Alliance on February 29th. Once the registration is opened the link will be forthcoming.

Avery Meyer - OCCC - We are hoping to have our new executive orders signed. There will be some changes coming down that hopefully will be announced soon. Also to clarify for the group the Opioid Abatement Plan does have to be turned in before the targeted abatement grant funds can be released. Our office has that money and once we get that plan from respective County's the money will be released. The settlement money can only be used for opioid specific things.

Melanie D. Jones-Dalziel -MDH- Care Coordination - Stats for November, 2 non fatal overdoses, year to date 49 non fatal and three fatal. Care Coordination enrolled 6 people in November.

Brett C. Forrest - MDH - RIM/OIT/NHIH - In November we did several outreach events; Evergreen's and Bigg Mixx's. We set up tables in the parking lot and handed out wound kits, sex kits and did Narcan training. We also helped at the Food Bank in Fairlee. On Saturday, December 16th we will be doing a gratitude breakfast at the RIM Center, all are welcome to stop by.

Chief Ronald Dixon - Law Enforcement - No updates. I would like to wish everybody a good, happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Christinia Russell - DHS - START program currently serves ages zero to five, we plan on moving forward with being able to serve all minors 0-18.

Prevention: Jennifer reported for Annette. There will be a Santa's Workshop this Friday, December 8th, from 5 to 7pm at the Kent County Community Center in Worton. It's free for everyone, they will have crafts, a bounce house, photo opportunity with Santa, holiday music, delicious treats, and hot cocoa and a chance to share your holiday wishes with Santa. This is in partnership with Parks and Rec's, Prevention, and our health department. Everyone is welcome.

Vicky Rahenkamp: Our mobile unit has finally been credentialed. We are looking diligently for places in the community to park the unit. It will be medical and behavioral health. We will be out in the community 3 days a week to connect with patients who can't get to us here at Choptank. We will be finalizing getting our tablets into two of the Kent County Libraries, Galena and Chestertown. Patients will be able to go to the libraries and connect via our Telehealth system, so they are able to get those resources online. We are hoping to start by at least mid January or earlier.

Next meeting date: January 3, 2024 @7:30am via teleconference platform.

REMINDER: *If there is anyone from your agency that you would like to add or delete from the LDAAC meeting list, please reach out to Desiree Rochester at desirees.rochester@maryland.gov.*

Thank you!