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Harford County Executive

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Director of Community Services

**Harford County Local Management Board
Board Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2023**

Members Present: Marcy Austin, Rob Basler (Chair), Silvana Bowker, Megan Deacon, Crystal DeJesus, Ross DiEdoardo, Melissa Feliciano, Angela Gray, Jill Latteri (representing Cora Grishkot), Annie Kovach, Capt. Tracy Penman, Anne Marie Porretti, Jennifer Redding, James Reilly, Patty Hammond (representing Barbara Richardson), Robin Tomechko, Jennie Towner, Laura Walker, and Laurie Rajala (Manager)

Members Absent: Megan Cornett, Alison Healey, Frank Kellner, Sharon Nolte, and Mary Beth Stapleton

Guests: Allison Easley, M.Ed., Amber Shrodes, and Joe Sliwka

Welcome and Introductions: Rob Basler called the meeting to order at 8:17am. All Board members were introduced.

Minutes: The January 26, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved upon the motion of Laura Walker, with a second from Silvana Bowker. Quorum was present.

Inform: Allison Easley, M.Ed., Student Development Specialist, Disability and Student Intervention Services (DSIS), Harford Community College

- DSIS is responsible for promoting accessible campus environments for students with disabilities, working with students and others to identify reasonable accommodations that remove barriers to access, and ensuring that accommodations determined to be reasonable are provided and effective. They connect students to educational opportunities and potential accommodations; engage students in helping them understand their accommodations and any barriers; and collaborates with students and teachers on how to implement accommodations. The Office consists of a Director, Student Development Specialist, Case Manager, and an Assistive Tech Specialist. They provide a variety of services throughout the HCC campus and specifically work on three programs: Steps to Success, Navigating College, and Mastering College. DSIS also provides training for staff; an on-site counselor; a food pantry; and a relaxation room. Alison stated that they serve students with a variety of disabilities, including ADHD, Anxiety, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Depression, Learning Disabilities, and POTS syndrome.

Discussion/Action Items:

- Board Vacancies
 - There is a vacancy in the Faith-Based and Business slots for the Board. It is also the time to nominate a new Vice-Chair, as Rob Basler's two-year term is ending as Chair. Mary Beth Stapleton will become Chair. Board members should send nominations to Laurie Rajala.

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- Ready by 21 – Jill Latteri
 - The Department of Social Services and the LMB are rejuvenating Ready by 21 discussions to help assist Harford County DSS youth with aging out. A quarterly committee made up of various organizations and agencies around the County will be scheduled. Youth aging out will be discussed and the group will work to identify their strengths, challenges, and needs so that they can be provided with as many resources as possible for success. The first meeting will be on April 17, 2023.
- Local Care Team Update – Laurie Rajala
 - Since the last Board meeting, the LCT has heard 17 cases. Of the 17 cases, 2 youth were approved for the Teen Diversion program, and all the youth received additional resources and community supports. The Board discussed trends in LCT youth and additional potential services that could help with immediate, short-term assistance. Jennifer Redding mentioned a couple services at the Klein Crisis Center that could be used.
- Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC)/ Bridge Program – Laurie Rajala
 - Melissa Feliciano provided a brief overview of the JJRC law. There have been 29 referrals (all from the Sheriff’s Office) submitted to the Bridge Program since February 14, 2023. Tiffany Eckstein-Hartwig (Bridge Program Coordinator) has been doing training with law enforcement agencies. Some of the 29 are retroactive and occurred in the past. Rob asked what the normal intake number was for referrals to the program. Laurie will ask Tiffany to present for the May meeting.
- Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Update – Mary Beth Stapleton
 - The Parent Academy Thrive by Five Early Childhood Summit will be held April 24-27th (live and virtual sessions). This is for parents of children birth – five and childcare providers. Twenty different session topics are available including disability identification, social/emotional support, and school readiness.

Board Member Announcements:

- Angela Gray provided information for Mental Health Awareness Month and what the MD Mental Health Wellness Coalition has been working on. She also provided information on the Your Mind Matters event (5/19/23).
- Amber Shrodes provided information on Project Connect (4/27/23); Empowered Expo (4/22/23); and a Drug Takeback (4/22/23).
- Rob reported that Arrow had applied to be an autism waiver provider. He also discussed the collaborative partnership that Arrow, DSS and ArcNCR are working on to increase the number of foster care homes in the County.
- Jill reported that MD is the only State that is offering replacement SNAP benefits.
- Jennie Towner provided information on an Open House HCC is having on 5/6/23. Fall registration opens on 4/17/23.
- Silvana Bowker provided information on the Youth and Family Festival at APGFCU Arena (4/13/24).
- Annie Kovach provided information on an event with the Ed Lally Foundation, being held in Shamrock Park, with a focus on mindfulness (4/28/23).
- Jill provided information on the 30th Anniversary of the CAC (4/28/23).

The meeting adjourned at 9:18am.

Next Meeting: May 25, 2023, 8:15 am