

County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland

Executive Order: 2014-07
Dated: June 11, 2014
Subject: Howard County Task Force to
assist in the development of a
Comprehensive Behavioral Health Action
Plan

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the burden of mental illness in the United States is among the highest of all diseases, an estimated one in four adults and one in five children had a mental health disorder in the past year; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness can overwhelm our social and human services, hospital and health care system as well as our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Howard County residents are fortunate that there are many dedicated individuals and organizations providing a continuum of mental health (also referred to as behavioral health) services from prevention to post-treatment support services and our community has made great strides in addressing some of our most serious service gaps; and

WHEREAS, we have increased our ability to respond to mental health crises when they occur but must continue to identify ways to intervene early to prevent them from developing; and

WHEREAS, there are still many gaps remaining, including the capacity to meet the demand for community-based treatment and the necessary wrap-around services to support people in their recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens Howard County to provide a comprehensive mental health system to ensure the availability of, and access to, treatment, wellness and recovery services and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget includes funding for a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Action Plan and the County Executive wishes to create a task force to assist a consultant in the development of such a plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland that a Behavioral Health Action Plan Task Force is hereby established and charged with the following mission:

1. To understand the roles played by all community partners in providing ongoing support for individuals with mental illness as well as in reducing the frequency and intensity of mental health crises;
2. To identify gaps in the continuum of care. These services may include but are not limited to consistent access to outpatient treatment and psychiatric services, as well as critical supportive services such as wrap-around stabilizing services, peer support services, community re-entry support post discharge from detention center, housing, employment and case management;
3. To identify synergies and strategies to maximize return on existing investments in this area as well as to understand where additional funding or support (public and private) should be directed in the future; and
4. To develop an action plan with policy, program and funding recommendations to enable the implementation of a preventive and recovery-oriented continuum of care for both Howard County adults and children.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Task Force will consist of 31 members appointed by the County Executive:

1. The president of the Howard County General Hospital, or the president's designee;
2. The Howard County Health Officer, or the Health Officer's designee;
3. The Director of the Howard County Mental Health Authority, or the Director's designee;
4. The Director of the Howard County Department of Citizen Services, or the Director's designee;
5. The Director of the Howard County Department of Social Services, or the Director's designee;
6. The Director of the Howard County Department of Corrections, or the Director's designee;
7. The Chief of Police, or the Chief's designee;
8. The Medical Director, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services;
9. The State's Attorney, or the State's Attorney's designee;
10. The Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court, or the Judge's designee;
11. A representative from the Howard County Public School System;
12. A representative from Howard Community College;
13. A representative from the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center;
14. A representative from The Horizon Foundation;
15. Four representatives from advocacy, education and/or human service community organizations;
16. At least three community behavioral health providers;

17. At least four medical providers which shall include an adult primary care physician with a practice located in Howard County, a pediatrician whose practice is located in Howard County, a licensed clinical child psychiatrist currently practicing in Howard County, and a licensed clinical adult psychiatrist currently practicing in Howard County;
18. A representative from the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County;
19. Two representatives from the Ethnic Community Roundtable of Howard County;
20. A representative from the faith community;
21. A person receiving mental health services or who has a family member receiving mental health services; and
22. A health systems researcher with expertise in mental health services.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Task Force shall be convened and hold its first meeting on or before August 1, 2014.

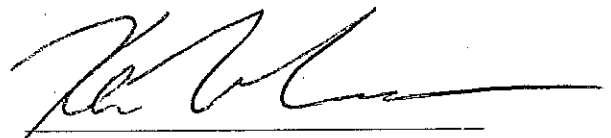
AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the members of the Task Force shall elect two co-chairs to direct and facilitate the group's functions.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Task Force may break into sub-committees to accomplish its tasks.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Action Plan shall be presented to the County Executive on or before January 1, 2015.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Task Force shall cease to exist on June 1, 2015 and the terms of the Task Force members shall expire on June 1, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Ken Ulman, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this ___th day of June, 2014.



Ken Ulman
County Executive