

Howard County's Behavioral Health Task Force: Primary Care Work Group

Task Force Report: January 15, 2015 - draft

During the two meetings of the Work Group, the discussions focused on how to create a current information bank that providers can use to update their service delivery availability along with information on their programs. This information bank would also be available to potential clients so that they could find "real time" help.

The following is an overview of the work of the group:

Program/infrastructure issues:

- 1) Navigator for our clients (website, community marketing)
Components – communication – coordination
Improved access for both clients and practitioners
- 2) Navigator for practice managers/practitioners related to best practices in screening for behavioral health issues, billing, referral (website, education events)
- 3) Johns Hopkins Health Care is collecting information on mental health and substance use prevalence from the County Health Rankings along with their own system's components. They are also creating geomaps of Howard County showing their own providers (and we can see what we might want to add).

Policy Issues:

Insurance reimbursement rates and billing have been identified as a major obstacle for both practitioners and consumers. The Work Group is researching the best approach for removing these barriers.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 8:00 am (Update after this meeting)

Chase Brexton, 5500 Knoll North Drive, Suite 400, Columbia, MD 21045