



Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates

January – February 2022

- **ASO (Optum Maryland)**

Please see the attached [Joint Chairmen's Report](#) for the latest updates.

- **BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve**

- Find more information on [upcoming webinars on the BHA website](#). See attached flyer for upcoming webinars.

- **BHA Behavioral Health Equity Workgroup**

- The awareness outreach committee engagement hosted a lunch and learn with BHA staff and stakeholders, please see [the presentation](#) for more information.
- The next meeting will be March 25, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

- **COVID-19 Updates with Public Health Webinars**

Held every other Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. Below are recordings of our last two sessions. To join upcoming webinars, please see the below information (to be added to the calendar invite, you can also email ivajean.smith@maryland.gov or steven.whitefield@maryland.gov):

- [Jan 7 webinar](#)
- [Jan 21 webinar](#)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/tZ0uc-yprz8oH90COcLkuMhi24h-pZaCMKQH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhrT8vG9WRshyORpx5A4-gZ-vzmClBgvoNvzDmLytGTWv_ZLZKf6JFEfv9

To join any of the webinars:

Please click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89345114259>

Or One tap mobile:

US: +13017158592,89345114259# or +19292056099,89345114259#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 893 4511 4259

- **Maryland Crisis System Workgroup**

- **System Expansion**

In developing regional crisis services, Mobile Response (Crisis) Teams are expanding to include the Western Counties (Garrett and Allegany) and Southern Maryland Counties (St. Mary's and Charles). The BHA team is scheduled to meet with the Western Region leadership (LBHAs, hospitals and health departments) in February to discuss regional crisis services.



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- **988 Integration**

BHA submitted a SAMHSA grant (1/31/22) to increase the workforce in the eight 988 call centers. This grant requires that the call centers respond to anticipated increased call volume, increase their data collection and reporting capabilities, increase their call answer rate, and provide follow up calls as needed.

- **PBHS COVID-19 Vaccination Status:**

- BHA continues to work in partnership with MDH, LBHA/LAA/CSAs, and providers to improve vaccination rates and guide further interventions.
- COVID-19 vaccine rates were substantially lower among people receiving behavioral health services compared to all Marylanders (the general population).
- Vaccination rates increased by age, with the lowest rate in people aged 12+ years and the highest rate in people aged 65+ years.
- As of 01/19/2022:
 - 58% of individuals in the Public Behavioral Health System aged 12 years and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 51% of them have completed the series.
 - 59% of individuals aged 18 years and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 52% of them are fully vaccinated.
 - 81% of individuals aged 65 years and older have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccines and 75% of them are fully vaccinated.

- **COVID-19 Treatment Options for Outpatients Update from the MDH Therapeutics Team**

[Therapeutics Weekly Update 1-28-2022.pdf](#). Any questions on this should be directed to howard.haft@maryland.gov.

- **Suicide Prevention**

BHA is sponsoring a Suicide Bereavement Clinician Training. This will take place on March 15 and 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a training for clinicians who work with those bereaved by suicide. This is a postvention activity that identifies at-risk, intervene, and provide support to promote healing and quality of life. Free virtual training, CEUs will be provided. Registration information will be forthcoming.

- **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Webinars and Upcoming Conference**

BHA hosted a PATH Capacity Building Conference “Increasing Positive Housing Outcomes through Person-Centered and Trauma Informed Service Delivery” on January 19, 2022. Over 100 PATH and homeless services providers participated in this virtual conference. Providers had an opportunity to gain information on:

- Landlord engagement and building relationship with property owners;
- Understanding insidious and historical trauma and how to deliver trauma informed services to promote healing and recovery;
- Outreach and engagement for special populations; and



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- Engagement of clients who identify as LGBTQIA+
- **Community Bond Workshop, January 26, 2022, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (virtual)**

This workshop was jointly hosted by MDH's BHA's Division of Planning, the Office of Facilities Management and Development, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), the Primary Care Office (PCO), and the Office of Population Health Improvement (OPHI).

Workshop introduced the Community Health Facilities Grant Program to an expanded network of providers, developers, and others who are seeking grants to assist in the acquisition, construction, renovation, and equipping of affordable housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health, and/or substance-related disorders, as well as Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHCs).

Overviews were presented by each of the sponsors providing information about the grant that included: the purpose of the grant, eligibility and criteria, priority populations, priorities for funding, application process, and assistance.