



Calvert County Local Behavioral Health Authority Advisory Council

October 8, 2025
9:00am-4:00pm

Purpose: Oversight and provision for the Local Behavioral Health Authority’s strategic plan to ensure quality behavioral health services are good quality, accessible, and plentiful to Calvert County residents.

AGENDA:

Time	What	Who
9:00am	Introductions/ Icebreaker Approve August Meeting Minutes	Everyone
9:30am	Funding Updates	Andrea McDonald-Fingland
10:00am	Child & Adolescent Data Presentation/Strategic Plan	Sarah Bailey
11:00am	BHAT Data Presentation/Strategic Plan	Katie Dorsey
12:00pm	Lunch	Everyone
12:30pm	Crisis Data Presentation/Strategic Plan	Andrea McDonald-Fingland
1:30pm	Criminal Justice System Data Presentation/Strategic Plan	Andrea McDonald-Fingland & Katie Dorsey
2:30pm	Governance Strategic Plan	Andrea McDonald-Fingland
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Attendance: Andrea McDonald-Fingland, Katie Dorsey, Sarah Bailey, Megan Sarikaya, Kara Harrer, Denise Dickerson, Haley Germann, Danielle Johnson, Lisa Caudle, Betsy Van Auker, Cindy Scribner, Josh Underwood, Tiffany McFarland, Candice D’Agostino, Jennifer Moreland, Ariane Odom

Introductions/Icebreaker:

For the icebreaker activity, members were asked to introduce themselves and then divide into groups. Each group was presented with a scenario: being stranded on a deserted island and needing to escape. The task

was to collaboratively develop a goal, two objectives, and two strategies for each objective. This icebreaker is designed to prepare the group for today's focus on developing a strategic plan for FY 27-29.

We were unable to vote on the August meeting minutes due to not meeting a quorum.

Funding Updates:

There are no specific funding updates at this time. However, we shared LBHA updates to provide members with some important information.

Child & Adolescent Data Presentation/Strategic Plan:

Sarah gave a data presentation about Child and Adolescents in Calvert County to help highlight the areas of concern to focus our efforts on when strategic planning.

After the data presentation, there was discussion about a comprehensive strategy to enhance youth behavioral health by increasing parental engagement and improving access to mental health services. There were several key areas brought up by members: parental education, early intervention, financial barriers, and the integration of mental health screenings into existing health protocols.

The group identified the need for robust parent education programs to foster a shared understanding between parents and school staff regarding child development and mental health. This education should help differentiate between typical childhood emotions and mental illness, thereby destigmatizing behavioral health issues and alleviating parental guilt. Additionally, the importance of early intervention was recognized as well as addressing financial barriers, such as high co-pays, that currently limit access to therapy. It was proposed to explore the possibility of pediatricians conducting mental health screenings for all athletes during their physical examinations.

The overarching goal is to improve youth behavioral health, with objectives focused on engaging parents, increasing service utilization, and enhancing early interventions. The objectives will include measuring progress using claims data, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data, and school suspension rates. We aim to gather insights from special populations through focus groups and to include private and homeschooled students in our efforts where feasible.

BHAT Data Presentation/Strategic Plan:

Katie presented on the event survey created by the BHAT committee, demonstrating its effectiveness in informing future planning.

Haley from CalvertHealth presented the results of the resource survey, which helped us identify gaps in our behavioral health system of care and explore ways to make local resources more accessible. We plan to keep the resource survey open until November to gather additional feedback.

After the presentations, a key discussion occurred regarding service accessibility and community engagement.

The group analyzed event survey data, highlighting the impactful "Taco Presentation" and identifying finances as a primary barrier to service access. Social media platforms, particularly YouTube, are the most effective channels for disseminating information about events and resources. Given the high engagement with email communication, we should prioritize creating email sign-up sheets. We also explored collaborating with churches to integrate service information during their gatherings.

Our strategic priorities include enhancing marketing and education, providing culturally competent and individualized resources, ensuring access to specialized services, and fostering collaboration to avoid service duplication. We discussed the potential of utilizing the Community Resources HUB building for after-hours or wrap-around services, possibly including non-billable and telehealth options. Our overarching goal is to reduce stigma by understanding its roots within various community segments, such as rural populations, older generations, military personnel, and different ethnic backgrounds.

To measure our success, we will focus on qualitative feedback from survey results and implement specific objectives. These include defining the HUB building's use for populations facing access barriers, increasing

the availability of after-hours and virtual appointments, developing community-wide strategies to address financial obstacles, and enhancing our marketing and education efforts through social media and streaming service advertisements. A critical next step is creating an implementation plan for these initiatives, which we can begin executing next year. Additionally, we recognize the urgent need for a more user-friendly website to provide accessible information on resources and events, as the current Health Department website is challenging to navigate. We also identified the necessity for early interventions with high-risk professions.

Crisis Data Presentation/Strategic Plan:

Andrea presented on data from EPs, Crisis Call Hub, and Urgent Care Coordination. One request that came up was to try to track the origin of calls for EP data, specifically if they come from an individual, family member, or organization.

The discussion led to establishing a goal to establish a sustainable, robust, and comprehensive continuum of crisis services. To achieve this, our objectives include fostering communication and collaboration among providers and stakeholders, identifying supplemental funding to retain the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) within our community, and improving the recruitment and retention of crisis providers.

Our performance targets include maintaining a dedicated MCT located within Calvert County with current staffing and capabilities. It was mentioned to find out if it possible to utilize opioid restitution funds to help sustain this initiative, which aims to decrease unnecessary utilization of the Emergency Department for behavioral health concerns, as evidenced by ED and EP data.

Criminal Justice System Data Presentation/Strategic Plan:

Andrea presented data on the LEAD program as well as some of our Criminal Justice grants. One of the data points someone requested was the age of our LEAD clients. LBHA will track that moving forward but it appears most clients are in the 30-40 year old age range. It was determined by the group that we will need to define terms such as "recidivism" and "diversion."

The overall goal for the Criminal Justice System Subcommittee is to establish effective, data-driven network and diversion treatment programs that serve the Behavioral Health Criminal Justice System clients. To achieve this, the Criminal Justice Subcommittee team will meet to collect and analyze relevant data. We will also work on implementing the LEAD program within Calvert County, which will require more buy in from local stakeholders. We plan to prepare a report on the LEAD program for the State's Attorney's Office to gain their support. We will want to develop a diversion plan once we define it. Developing a data dictionary will be vital to addressing this goal. Finally, we will want to increase the arrest diversion in LEAD.

Governance Strategic Plan:

Andrea discussed the purpose of governance and requested input on our procurement process. While we have never had a goal surrounding Governance, we would like to develop one this year specifically to address the procurement process.

The goal is to ensure that all grants are fairly accessible to all organizations interested in applying to be a vendor. The objective is to provide electronic copies of the LBHAC Policies and Procedures to ensure all LBHAC members are clear on their roles and responsibilities. The strategy involves reaching out to other LBHACs for their insights.

Jennifer reminded Andrea that we also need to update the bylaws concerning term limits.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2025 from 12:00pm-2:00pm