

# Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

March 2021

Name of Committee: **Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee**

Chair: Laura Mitchell                      Phone: (410) 422 – 2694                      Email: Laura\_Mitchell@comcast.net  
Vice Chair: Jessica Ryan                      Phone: (301) 996 – 2928  
Communication (e-list, etc): N/A

**SUBCOMMITTEES / WORK GROUPS** (if applicable): None/TBD

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES:** Educate families, students, and the community at large about substance use prevalence, risks and ways to prevent substance use among students. Advocate for services for students who have substance use issues and help ensure the continuation of recovery academic programs.

## **Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Activities**

The SUP committee is excited to welcome Jessica Ryan! Jessica brings a wealth of knowledge and lived experience to the committee that will help inform our work.

The Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee continues to partner with several outside groups and agencies toward prevention efforts and to address current substance use by MCPS students.

*Committee work:*

### **Collaboration**

The committee is working in partnership with AODAAC, MADD, Arise & Flourish and MCPS to plan a substance use prevention and education series for students that will include opportunities to earn SSL hours while learning about the dangers and cycle of abuse. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the materials with an art project or essay. There would also be an associated contest for the entries during a specified time frame. The goal is to run this pre-prom/graduation season. Though we know there will not be formal proms, we expect that there will be many informal gatherings as the weather warms and students release pent up energy.

### **National PTA**

- The chair and vice chair will participate in NPTA's [LegCon](#) (Legislative Conference) coming up March 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> including Hill Day. During Hill Day, we will meet with the Maryland Delegation including Senators Van Hollen & Cardin and Representatives Trone, Sarbanes & Raskin on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am-4:30pm.

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- The chair will present the “Protect Your Family at Home” presentation (previously shared with this group) in partnership with Sarah Bucic from the Delaware PTA on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:10pm-4:55pm.



The presentations were prerecorded but we will be online to answer questions in the chat.

**Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC):**

Attended monthly Council meeting as the MCCPTA representative.

- AODAAC members, in partnership with *Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes (PAVe)*, prepared and submitted written testimony in support of banning all flavored tobacco products in Maryland. The bills, [SB0177](#) (cross file [HB0134](#)) titled Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition, have been filed and hearings held but the bill has not yet been voted out of either committee. PAVe is asking supporters of the ban on flavored tobacco products to write to [Senators on the Finance Committee](#) immediately. You can use this sample letter or write your own.

Senate: <a href="#">SB0177</a> Cross-filed (HB0134)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/13/2021 First Reading Finance and Budget and Taxation</li> <li>1/28/2021 Hearing 1:00 pm (Finance) <a href="#">Click for Summary</a></li> <li>Awaiting a report from committee</li> <li><a href="#">Fiscal &amp; Policy Note</a> Added</li> </ul>
House: <a href="#">HB0134</a> Cross-filed (SB0177)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/13/2021 First Reading Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations</li> <li>2/10/2021 First Hearing 1:30pm (Economic Matters)</li> </ul>

- You can view summaries of all pre-filed bills that I and other members of AODAAC have reviewed to date here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p44a5nfBx\\_UlbJdTzIDiAVKw10EKn\\_p7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p44a5nfBx_UlbJdTzIDiAVKw10EKn_p7/view?usp=sharing)
- In partnership with *Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes (PAVe)*, we continue to work with the Maryland pod of PAVe on ways to collaborate to provide education on the dangers of vaping to students and parents and provide information on how we can advocate for laws that ban flavored vapes at the local, state and federal levels of government. We are planning another MCCPTA/PAVe webinar for Montgomery County in late March or early April.
- Website Committee (ad hoc) – AODAAC is revamping their website to be more user friendly and provide easier access to resources. The Chair is working with the committee to ensure a family and student point of view.
- The Chair is serving as the AODAAC liaison to the Montgomery County Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC).

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## Montgomery County Prevention Alliance (Formerly Opioid Intervention Task Force):

- The group did not meet in February.
  - COPE Trailer update – the video version of the COPE trailer tour (for adults only) is complete. Unfortunately, it was not ready in time for the virtual MCPS Anti-Vaping Symposium on February 27<sup>th</sup>, but we plan to schedule other viewing opportunities.

## Parity and Equity Coalition, Legal Action Center:

- The most pressing issue for this group is fair and equitable coverage of mental health and substance use treatment via telemedicine by insurance companies and Medicaid. This is proving particularly challenging for audio only, or telephone only, appointments. It is a safety concern and an equity issue for patients who do not have access to internet services and devices needed for an online visit but cannot get in person visits at this time.
- Another area of concern is the suggestion that insurance be permitted to count telehealth providers to meet their adequacy of network requirements at the same time they are resisting efforts to ensure payment parity for the same service in bills before the legislature.
- The Chair testified before both the House Health and Government Operations and the Senate Finance Committees who heard the bills and subsequent work sessions as the provisions of our bill were amended into another similar bill. The House has not yet passed the amended bill out of committee. The Senate passed SB0003 with the key provisions of our bill, including:
  - Protecting consumer choice on the mode of delivery (in person, video or audio only) in private insurance and Medicaid
  - Allowing patients with private insurance to get telehealth services at any location (as in Medicaid)
  - Requiring Maryland Medicaid to ensure Parity Act compliance in telehealth services
  - Requires payment parity for all delivery modes in private insurance and Medicaid
  - Specifically includes mental health and substance use treatment as well as somatic health care
- We held 26 virtual meetings with each member of both the House Health and Government Operations and the Senate Finance Committees who heard the bills and attended both hearings (virtually). Those meetings proved beneficial as we heard Senators using our stories to highlight the importance of various provisions of the bill.
- We will continue our work to eliminate the barriers to SUD and mental health treatment that insurance companies continue to erect, in violation of the Mental Health Parity and Substance Use Equity Act. The SUP Chair has joined the legislative committee to advocate for bills that will provide adequate care and insurance coverage for mental health and substance use treatments in Maryland.

## MCPS:

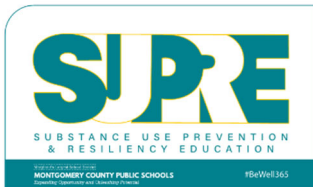
- I continue to work with OSFSE on the implementation of [Handle With Care](#), a program that has first responders notify school officials when a school aged child is present at a scene to which they responded. The school is then able to meet with the child with a

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trauma informed approach to assess the level of trauma (if any) experienced and to provide or refer the family for trauma informed care. The Chair is hopeful that recent personnel changes at MCPS will continue, perhaps even accelerate, the implementation of HWC in Montgomery county.

- We have reviewed and submitted edits and enhancements to the [SUPRE](#) diversion program documents. Stephanie Iszard and Sean Kelly from the Student Well Being and Achievement, Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement would like to present the program to a group of parents to get feedback and input. **The SUP Committee will share a date soon to review this important diversion program.**



- The MCPS & MCCPTA Anti-Vaping Symposium on February 27, 2021, 11:30-1:00. The student panel was very well received. It was well attended by students, parents and MCPS teachers. Go to the YouTube links in the attached fliers to view the session. You can see the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) version on the YouTube channel.