

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

April 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 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 worked in partnership with AODAAC, MADD, Arise & Flourish and MCPS to plan the first installment in a substance use prevention and education series for students that include opportunities to earn SSL hours while learning about the dangers and cycle of abuse. 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. The committee and our partners felt it was very important to hold this event before the prom/graduation season begins.

On April 28th, the committee and our partners hosted [Risky Business: Making Choices About Alcohol and Drugs](#). The live event featured speakers from Mothers Against Drunk/Drugged Driving, a victim and an offender, as well as two persons in recovery from Arise & Flourish. Each speaker shared their personal stories of how substance use impacted and changed their lives in a very impactful way. We had 114 registrants, including 100 students from the following schools:

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

April 2021

What school are you affiliated with?	Grade
Argyle MS	5
Blake HS	1
Cabin John MS	1
Churchill HS	3
Clarksburg High School	34
Damascus High School	3
Delmar High School	1
Eastern Middle School	1
Farquhar	1
From The Heart Christian School	1
Hoover MS	1
John F Kennedy High school	1
Jones Lane Elementary	1
Lincoln High School	1
Northwest High School	3
Northwood High School	1
Paint Branch High School	2
Parkland Magnet Middle School	2
Richard Montgomery HS	2
Ridgeview Middle School	2
Robert Frost Middle School	4
Shady Grove MS	1
Springbrook HS	2
SSIMS	1
Walter Johnson High School	8
Watkins Mill High School	4
Wheaton High School	1
Winston Churchill High School	4
Total	100

Students who could not attend the live session can still participate by viewing the videos on MADD and Arise & Flourish and submit evidence of learning from that video. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the materials with an art project or essay. We had hoped there would also be an associated contest for the entries during a specified time frame, however, funding was an issue for this event. We will work to secure prizes/funding for the future. The goal is to run this annually, in advance of prom/graduation season. You can [view the event here](#).

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

April 2021

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

- AODAAC is undertaking an effort to change the language of addiction, beginning with our own name. The membership voted to request a name change to remove the word “Abuse” and replace it with “Addiction”. Pending approval from the County Executive and the County Council, the new name will be Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council.
- The SUP Chair attended the Spring Forum in lieu of the monthly AODAAC meeting as the MCCPTA representative.
 - Confronting Barriers to Mental Health & Addiction Services, on Thursday, May 6, 2021. The event focused on equity, isolation, and the digital divide and how they impact mental health, substance use, and services for children. Speakers addressed how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted these issues, as well as possible future directions for treatment and recovery services. The event featured three presentations, followed by a question-and-answer period with the presenters.
 - Speakers were Dr. Alan Leshner, former director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse; Elizabeth Guroff, director of Trauma-informed Services, National Council for Behavioral Health; and Donna Keating, Montgomery County Community Engagement and Digital Equity Programs.
- 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 SUP Chair is serving as the AODAAC liaison to the
 - Montgomery County Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC)
 - Montgomery County Suicide Prevention Coalition, serving as a lead on the Youth subcommittee.

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

The SUP Chair participated in the the Prevention Alliance on April 27th, were topics included:

- Drug Take Back Day made a successful return this year on April 24th
- Community members are invited to attend the 3-part series on Preventing Underage Alcohol Use:
 - Preventing Underage Alcohol Use Part 1: An Overview of Data and Strategies
Wednesday April 28th 1-2:30pm
https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1418466649/en/events/event/shared/3619257362/event_registration.html?sco-id=3619221488& charset =utf-8
 - Preventing Underage Alcohol Use Part 1: Addressing Use among Younger Youth
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:00-3:00pm
https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1418466649/en/events/event/shared/3619254268/event_registration.html?sco-id=3619253369& charset =utf-8
 - Preventing Underage Alcohol Use Part 3: Addressing Use Among College-Aged Youth

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

April 2021

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:00pm-2:30pm

<https://events->

[na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1418466649/en/events/event/shared/3619682469/event_registration.html?sco-id=3619626894& charset =utf-8](https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1418466649/en/events/event/shared/3619682469/event_registration.html?sco-id=3619626894& charset =utf-8)

- The MCPA has restarted efforts to establish a youth ambassador program in the high schools, to later expand to the middle schools. The youth ambassadors will provide input on activities of the alliance, help shape efforts to reach students in the county, and act as liaisons between the alliance and schools.

Parity and Equity Coalition, Legal Action Center:

- The Coalitions' focus this session was fair and equitable coverage of mental health and substance use treatment via telemedicine by insurance companies and Medicaid. This proved 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. In the end, we successfully advocated to get the legislation passed and signed into law.
- 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 Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is holding series of listening and informational sessions on this topic and to raise public awareness of their rights and appeal options with regard to insurance coverage.
- 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.

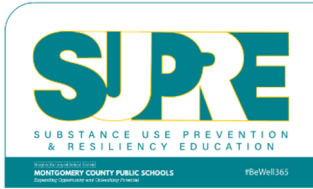
MCPS:

- The Committee continues 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 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 met with the group working to pilot the program in the Fall. There are issues with the MOU that are being addressed but we are still on target to join the other 17 Maryland counties using HWC in September 2021.

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

April 2021

- The Committee reviewed and submitted edits and enhancements to the [SUPRE](#), the Substance Use Prevention & Resiliency Education 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 invites parents, students and teachers to join us on May 17th at 7:00 to review this important diversion program and**

provide input on the program.

When: May 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpcuqtqzsiG9D5XNZsSELTyKVEXc5K7T7E>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.