

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

February 2021

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

Chair: Laura Mitchell

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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:

National PTA

- The chair and vice chair registered for NPTA's [LegCon](#) (Legislative Conference) coming up March 9th - 11th in time to be included in Hill Day. During Hill Day, we will meet with the Maryland Delegation to discuss priorities and advocate for more resources for substance use prevention and for students and families with substance use disorder, among other educational initiatives.

- The chair was invited to present the "Protect Your Family at Home" presentation (previously shared with this group) in partnership with Sarah Bucic from the Delaware PTA. The Spotlight series at NPTA LegCon is an opportunity to learn what other PTAs are doing and how we can bring those ideas back to MCCPTA. Registration is still open for the virtual event.



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

Attended monthly Council meeting as the MCCPTA representative. We continue to see increases in fatal and non-fatal overdoses during COVID-19. Stressors, lack of access to care as many treatment centers refuse new patients, and support meetings switched from in person to virtual.

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

February 2021

- The federal, state and county agencies are beginning to refocus efforts and resources on this ongoing epidemic.
- 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 are scheduled as follows:

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

- 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.
- 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_UlBjDtZlDiAVKw10EKn_p7/view?usp=sharing

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

- The group met on January 26th to discuss progress toward the establishment of youth .
 - Youth Ambassadors Recruitment
 - State IRB (Institutional Review Board) application update
 - Update on KnowtheRiskMC & BTheone messaging efforts
 - COPE Trailer update – the video version of the COPE trailer tour will be debuted (to adults only) at the virtual MCPS Anti-Vaping Symposium on February 27th.
 - Results from Survey Monkey (listed in order of interest)
 1. Youth Leadership Training (High School)
 2. Youth Prevention Groups (Modified)
 3. Education Activities for parents, professionals, and community (postcards for dentists, education to parents, COPE Trailer, etc.)
 4. Social Media Campaign
 5. Middle school Leadership Program-train the trainer for MS: train 7th and 8th graders in prevention
 6. Education Forums
 7. Safe storage and disposal of Rx drugs campaign/ PSA development

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

February 2021





Anyone with interest in assisting with any of these efforts should contact me as soon as possible.

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.
- The group determined the legislative priorities for the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session which includes the continuation of coverage for telehealth services post-COVID-19 and balance billing issues (when a provider tries to bill the patient for the balance after insurance payments, often in violation of their provider agreements). The balance billing issue will not likely be taken up by the legislature this session but we will continue to work with the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) on the issue.
- We participated the third in a series of meetings with the Maryland Insurance Commission. We continue to be encouraged by Commission Chair Birrane 's comments and consumer focus and we are hopeful that the MIA will set adequate reporting requirements, and require that insurance providers to meet those requirements, so that parity and equity violations can be easily determined and addressed. Currently, there is no way for the public to obtain the metrics required to see blatant violations. Only the MIA can obtain the information by request, it is not required in ongoing reporting. We are also working with the commission as they the examine rules governing insurance companies.
- 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.
- 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. 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).
- The Maryland Insurance Administration will hold the second in a series of special public virtual meeting for consumers and providers on "Understanding How to Access Insurance Coverage for Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Treatment" on Thursday, February 25th, 11:00am-2:00pm. I have requested that future meetings include evening meeting times. Please share the dates and fliers below with your networks.

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

February 2021

 <p>ask MIA Maryland Insurance Administration</p> <p>Date and Time: Thursday, February 25th, 11am-2pm</p> <p>Zoom Meeting ID: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1617148335</p> <p>Join the Maryland Insurance Administration for an "open house" to discuss your insurance issues and questions. Stop by virtually and chat with us one-on-one. We're here to help!</p> <p></p>	 <p>preguntas a MIA Maryland Insurance Administration</p> <p>Fecha y Hora: Jueves 25 de Febrero, 11 am-2pm</p> <p>ID de reunión Zoom: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1617148335</p> <p>Únete a la Administración de Seguros de Maryland para una discusión de "puertas abiertas" sobre problemas de seguro y preguntas. Pasa virtualmente y chatea con nosotros uno-a-uno. Estamos aquí para ayudar!</p> <p></p>
<p>Download and share this flier!</p>	<p>Download and share this flier!</p>

MCPS:

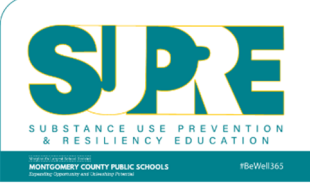
- I continue to work with OSFSE on the implementation of [Handle With Care](#), a program that has first responders notify school officials when a school aged child is present at a scene to which they responded. The school is then able to meet with the child with a trauma informed approach to assess the level of trauma (if any) experienced and to provide or refer the family for trauma informed care. Addressing childhood Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) in a timely and effective manner is a very important step toward reducing the risk of future. Studies have shown that more than 80% of individuals treated for substance use experienced at least one ACE and most went unaddressed.

Local police departments are starting to put this initiative into practice, informally. We are working to ensure that privacy and other critical components of the HWC program are happening with fidelity, even in the informal practice. A pilot of Handle With Care was slated to begin in September, however, that was delayed due to COVID-19 and distance learning. I feel strongly that this the very time we need this program the most. We know that reports of child abuse and neglect are down substantially because students are not in school being seen or able to reach out for help. If MCPS were made aware of calls for service to the home, for whatever reason, their follow up outreach might reveal the students' need for help.

Montgomery County Fire & Rescue/EMS are also notifying MCPS when they respond to a call regarding a child with suicidal ideation or an attempted suicide. Montgomery County EMS responded to 408 such calls in 2020. This does not include children who were transported privately by parents or others for suicidal ideation or attempts.

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee Report

February 2021

- 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 asks that interested parties save the date of February 18th at 7:00pm to participate in reviewing this important diversion program.**
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- We continue to participate in the planning of **Anti-Vaping Symposium** with MCPS & MCCPTA. Please plan to attend on **February 27, 2021, 11:30-1:00**. Fliers and registration links will be provided in the coming days.
 - The virtual tour of the C.O.P.E. trailer (mock teen bedroom/bathroom) **WILL BE SHOWN** at this event!