



**Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Council  
Cecil County Health Advisory Committee  
January –June 2017 Update  
7/20/17**

The Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency maintains an Advisory Council which meets on a monthly basis. The purpose of the Cecil County Mental Health Advisory Council is to collaborate with the local behavioral health providers to develop goals, review progress, identify barriers, and provide input for planning. The Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Council has taken an active role in reviewing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in the selection of goals, and strategies to improve the overall community’s behavioral health needs.

The Cecil County CSA met regularly with volunteers from the Advisory Council to discuss and prioritize strategies to address the CHAC goals. Three committees were initially started and it was discovered the strategies being pursued by subcommittees addressing objectives 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 were related and could be addressed more effectively in one subcommittee. Therefore, Objective 1.2.1- By June 30, 2019 “Reduce the percentage of youth in grade 9-12 who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more during the past 12 months to no more than 24.8%” and Objective 1.2.2 - “Decrease the suicide rate in Cecil County by 5%” were combined. There were a total of three meetings and the subcommittees are continuing to meet and share information. The third subcommittee has met on two occasions.

The Advisory Council participated in a prioritization exercise and selected strategies from the CHIP to work on at this time. As the process continues, more strategies will be developed and added to achieve the goals.

Goal 1.2: Improve the mental health and well-being of Cecil County residents.

Objective 1.2.1, and 1.2.2: By June 30, 2019, reduce the percentage of youth in grades 9-12 who felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more during the past 12 months to no more than 24.8%.

**Strategies:**

- 1. Promote depression screening during wellness checkups**
- 2. Research programming to promote the health and well-being of youth.**
- 3. Promote Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (B-HIPP).**

*Healthy People. Healthy Community. Healthy Future.*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.....	410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5160
ALCOHOL AND DRUG RECOVERY CENTER.....	410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION.....	410-996-5168
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.....	410-996-5113	MENTAL HEALTH AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS SERVICES.....	410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY.....	.800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL.....	410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL.....	410-996-5550 EXT 4680

**Status:**

Gaps in services were identified and prioritized, and a subcommittee was developed. The subcommittee is focusing on the following:

1. Develop a survey and list of primary care providers (PCPs) to research the use of depression screening tools in the county.
  - a. Researched a variety of youth depression screening tools and discussed with subcommittee.
  - b. Initiated PCP survey process
2. Reviewed YRBS data regarding youth sadness among Cecil County high school students, and identified LGBTQ youth as a subpopulation reporting significantly higher prevalence of sadness (68.1% vs. 24.3%) and thoughts of suicide (57.3% vs. 13.4%).
  - a. Researched programs targeting LGBTQ youth.

Goal 2: Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services in Cecil County

Objective 1.3.1: By June 30, 2019, decrease the rate of emergency department visits related to mental health conditions by 10% and emergency department visits related to substance use disorders by 5%.

**Strategies:**

1. Increase awareness of behavioral health resources and services in the community.

**Status:**

1. Coordinating with the Resource Directory QI project at the Health Department regarding the launch of the electronic resource guide. This guide will be focused on behavioral health resources for Cecil County residents.