

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 1

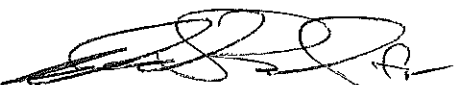
RESOLUTION NO. 4 - 2021

Introduced by: Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION confirming the appointment of Ayesha Holmes to the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board.


Introduced and read first time on January 4, 2021.

By order


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

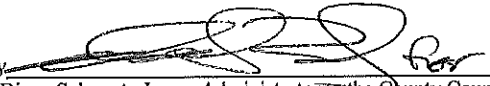
Read for a second time and a public hearing held on January 19, 2021.

By order


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments , Failed , Withdrawn by the County Council on March 1, 2021.

Certified by


Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

Amendment 1 to Council Resolution No. 4-2021

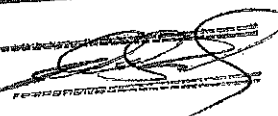
BY: The Chairperson at the request
of the County Executive

Legislative Day 3
Date: February 1, 2021

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment corrects the term of the appointment.)

- 1 On page 1, strike lines 10 through 16, inclusive and in their entirety and substitute:
- 2 “WHEREAS, an amendment to Section 404 of the County Charter, effective on or about
- 3 December 3, 2020, shortened the term for members of most citizen boards and commissions
- 4 from five to three years, including the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board; and ”.
- 5
- 6 On page 1, in line 22, strike “February 1, 2025” and substitute “February 1, 2024”.

ADOPTED 3/1/21
FAILED _____
SIGNATURE 

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2021 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 1

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Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2021.

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This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted ____, Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on _____, 2021.

Certified by

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

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Ayesha B. Holmes

Professional Profile

Proven leader with an outstanding track record of launching, implementing, and sustaining successful programs to improve outcomes for those served • Strong interpersonal skills and ability to relate to diverse personalities with emphasis on team cohesion and development • Data informed planning, budget management, and growth decisions and project improvements • Skilled trainer able to present information to diverse groups • Skilled at focusing individuals and groups through change processes to achieve strategic goals • Over 20 years of experience in conducting public outreach including convening and facilitating various stakeholder groups including families and youth, developing and implementing surveys to collect and analyze data.

Education

Johns Hopkins University, 1998
Masters of Science Education - Clinical Community Counseling

University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1993
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute, 2011
Executive Certificate in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Multi-System Integration

Leadership Howard County, 2019
Premier Graduate

Professional Highlights

- Using and aligning best practices to guide care practice for individuals and families experiencing behavioral health crisis or homelessness.
- Working closely with funders, partners and local leaders to develop programming to meet the growing needs of county residents.
- Strategically leading through challenging times to ensure the needs of individuals were met
- Developing and maintaining strong partnerships with government agencies to ensure an integrated approach to care.
- Collaborating with private providers, including hospitals, pediatric groups and AIDS prevention activities to develop strong continuums of care
- Writing winning grant proposal to ensure growth and continuity of organization's mission
- Collaborating with a strong Boards of Directors
- Working in diverse communities facing multiple challenges including mental health, substance abuse, crime, and poverty concerns
 - Developing tracking tools to build a common language for outcomes management

Relevant Experiences

7/2020
To Present
Maryland Director
Share our Strength/No Kid Hungry

Responsible for all operations related to Maryland's expansion of access to food and meals for children and families. Coordinating the national, regional, state and local priorities to ensure the children have access to nutrition's meals daily. No Kid Hungry shares best practices, advocates and provides grant funds to support the mission of ending childhood hunger.

- Provide daily management and oversight of operations for the No Kid Hungry Campaign in Maryland
- Set state specific goals and priorities for advocacy, promotion of best practice and focus of grants.
- Oversee grant making for Maryland related to school nutrition, government agencies and community organizations
- Partners closely community and government agencies to align goals to achieve lasting outcomes using a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens for all funded work.

1/2017
To 7/2020
Executive Director
Grassroots Crisis Center, Columbia, MD

Serving as Executive Director for a comprehensive crisis center located in Columbia, Maryland. Grassroots operates a homeless shelter, a Day Resource Center, a Mobile Crisis Team, a detox program as well a variety of services to support individuals and families as they move from crisis to self-sufficiency. During my tenure, the Center expanded from a mental health focus to offer a continuum of Behavioral Health services, including Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as well as on-site Detox from opiates.

- Provided daily management and oversight to operations of Grassroots Crisis Center, including over 50 staff, and a \$4.5 Million dollar budget
- Developing and managing multiple funding streams to sustain and grow the organization
- Collaborating with residents, community members and partners to advance the mission of Grassroots
- Developed and launched in-house detox program to address community need
- Worked closely with State and Local Behavioral Health Departments to implement evidence based practices
- Worked with Coalition to End Homelessness, served as Chair of the Planning committee to revise and implement the Path Home, Howard County's plan to end homelessness
- Using Results Based Accountability as a framework developed and outcomes measurement for all programs
- Worked closely with a 20 person Board of Directors
- Participated on community boards for behavioral health, homelessness and poverty

4/2012
To 12/2016

Founding Partner
STRATIGIX Consulting, LLC., Columbia, MD

Founded a consulting company serving government and non-profit agencies as they implement expansions and changes within their organizations. Provide training and technical assistance in areas of Systems of Care development and implementation, grants writing, budget development, community partnerships as well as management and leadership development.

- Working with both Local and State Governments to expand and implement Systems of Care, Wraparound as well as Evidence Based or Promising Practices
- Providing technical assistance, coaching, management, and leadership development to government and private non-profit organizations to implement programs that achieve positive outcomes for youth and families.
- Worked closely with University of Washington to implement the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI)
- Trained in WFI implementation for community based project evaluation

7/2005 State Director
To Maryland Choices LLC, Baltimore and Rockville, MD
4/2013

Developed Maryland Choices from a single contract in Montgomery County to a Statewide operation serving 400 families daily using the Wraparound service delivery model within a Care Management Entity financial framework. This Statewide project includes two SAMHSA funded System of Care Grants and the 1915(c) Demonstration Waiver. Additionally, Maryland Choices continues to serve as the Care Management Entity, for

Montgomery County, Maryland, a former SAMHSA System of Care funded site that has sustained the grant through local funding. Maryland Choices earned COA Accreditation in 2011.

- Expanded Maryland Choices from a single contract local project to a statewide project in less than 7 years
- Continuously served as the Care Management Entity for Montgomery County since 2005 when they successfully sustained their SAMHSA System of Care Grant
- Provided Family Preservation Services using the Wraparound service delivery approach since 2009
- Worked to develop a well-integrated system of care that provides individualized, family centered, strength based, coordinated services to children, youth and families with emphasis on client empowerment, interagency coordination, systems theory and cross-cultural approaches
- Oversaw and managed all aspects of multi-county/statewide operations in Maryland, including partnership, community relations, provider network development, staff recruitment/training, managing and monitoring a budget and clinical consultations
- Participated in committees and meetings as they related to System of Care Development in Maryland
- Created and implemented external trainings to stakeholders and partners about Wraparound and Systems of Care
- Networked with local and state level partners and funders to develop an integrated process for services delivery for the most intensive youth
- Met with child serving system partners regularly to advance participation at all levels on behalf of youth with severe mental and behavioral health needs
- Provided reports to community agencies, partners and funders as requested
- Prepared and submit monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Participated in internal and external evaluations
- Worked as part of a multi-state leadership team at Choices, Inc.

10/2003 Coordinator
to Vocational Integration Project
7/2005 Glenwood Life Counseling Center, Baltimore, MD

Lead a project to develop a continuum of care for individuals with chronic behavioral health needs with workforce development programs. Successfully developed a project linking prominent substance abuse and workforce development providers and convinced them to collaborate without additional funding.

- Lead a new project focused on developing a continuum of care between substance providers and workforce development providers
- Developed a process for implementing a coordinated services delivery system between a consortium of substance abuse treatment and workforce development providers in Baltimore City
- Managed all aspects of project including program development, coordination of efforts among the six participating providers, data tracking and program evaluation
- Worked closely with a steering committee to develop solid relationships among starkly different organizations with varying missions
- Provided technical assistance to 6 substance abuse programs and 6 workforce development programs to build consensus leading to project integration

6/2001 Director
to Young Parent Support Center
10/2003 Baltimore County Department of Social Services, Baltimore, MD

As part of the Maryland Statewide Network of Family Support Centers, served as the Director of the Young Parent Support Center in Baltimore County. The center provided childcare to young parents while they worked on their GED. During my tenure, the center became a licensed child care center; the only to serve children under age 2 in southeastern Baltimore County. Also lead the center through accreditation through the Council on Accreditation.

- Managed adult education, job readiness, child development, and fatherhood initiative programs in a family focused setting
- Oversaw, implemented and managed all aspects of program development, staff supervision, fiscal management, and client enrollment/retention
- Managed and provided oversight of staff, including recruitment, team building and leadership development
- Coordinated efforts and requirements of funders and sponsoring agency

7/1998 Deputy Director/Program Director (promoted from Intake Specialist in 2 months)
to Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council, Baltimore, MD
6/2001

Washington Village/Pigtown was a designated site working on a three prong community development approach as part of the Empowerment Zone initiative in Baltimore. The focus was Human Services, Business Development and Public Safety. Lead and participated in all aspects of managing the organization successfully.

- Administered and evaluated workforce development, substance abuse and community mobilization programs and services
- Supervision of all staff, including recruitment, training, oversight and performance evaluation
- Operated center within annual budget and long-range fiscal plan
- Maintained strong relationships with community associations, neighborhood schools and other service providers/vendors
- Worked closely with Board of Directors

Program Director:

- Administered and evaluated all career center program activities to ensure goals were attained
- Supervised career center staff, including recruitment, training, oversight and performance evaluation
- Built relationships with key partners
- Managed and reviewed client records to ensure compliance with professional standards

Presentations at Conferences

- 7/2006 Georgetown University Training Institutes
- Presented as part of a panel on the Implementation Factors of Wraparound in Systems of Care
- 10/2006 MARFY Conference
- Presented to Statewide audience about Wraparound and Provider Development
- 10/2007 MARFY Conference
- Presented to Statewide audience about Wraparound and Systems of Care – focused on three communities – Montgomery County, Baltimore City and St. Mary's County.
- 3/2008 University of South Florida Systems of Care Research Conference
- Presented on access to care and outcomes using the Wraparound Fidelity Index (WFI) and the Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS).
- 7/2008 Georgetown University Training Institutes
- Presented a poster session on "No Wrong Door" in Montgomery County. Highlighted access to care and the development of the system of care
- 10/2008 MARFY Conference
- Presented to Statewide Audience with DHR, DJS, CSA and Innovations Institute about Systems of Care, Wraparound and Evidence Based Practices
- 3/2009 University of South Florida Systems of Care Research Conference
- Presented a poster highlighting the synergy between program management, evaluations and marketing/communications.
- 7/2010 Georgetown University Training Institutes
- Presented in a panel about the WFI and the Family Journey tools and how they are used to drive practice and improve outcomes for youth.
- 2/2011 Systems of Care Institutes – Brevard County Florida
- Presented in a panel about supervision, staff development, and partnership with evaluation and families.
- 7/2014 Georgetown University Training Institutes
- Presented a poster session "Wraparound 24:7" showcasing an innovative technology platform to enhance wraparound facilitation.
- 4/2015 Virginia Children's Services Act Conference
- Presented workshop "Establishing a Framework for Successful Implementation of High-Fidelity Wraparound"

Committee/Board Participation

- 2020 – Present – Howard County Racial Equity Taskforce
- 2019 – 2020 – Howard County Charter Commission
- 2018 – 2020 – Howard County Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force
- 2018 – 2020 – Howard County Opiate Intervention Committee/Fatality Review Team
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Board to Promote Self Sufficiency
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition, Delegate
- 2017 – 2020 – Howard County Coalition to End Homelessness Board Member/ Planning Committee Chair
- 2014-2017 – Board Member - Center for Adoption Support Services (CASE)
- 2014-2105 - Howard County Executive Kittleman's Transition Team
- 2014-2015 - Howard County Behavior Health Taskforce
- 2012-2013 - Rural Cares Governance Board (SOC Grant)
- 2010-2013 - Baltimore City Implementation Group (SOC Grant)
- 2009-2013 - Care Management Entity Implementation Workgroup
- 2007-2008 - 1915(c) PRTF Waiver Development Committee
- 2005-2013 - Montgomery County Children with Intensive Needs
- 2005-2006 - Board Member – Recovery In Community
- 2004-2005 - Board Member – Chesapeake Center for Youth Development

Sayers, Margery

From: Holmes, Ayesha <aholmes@strength.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: Checking in about tonight's meeting
Attachments: Testimony to LBHAB.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi there,

I'm just checking in to make sure my online registration went through for tonight's Council meeting. Also, I couldn't seem to figure out how to put in a written copy of testimony. I hope it's ok to send it through you. I've attached it. I you prefer me to send it another way just let me know how!

Hope you are well and staying safe!
Ayesha

AYESHA B. HOLMES, MS

Director

Maryland No Kid Hungry

She/Her/Hers/Herself

state.nokidhungry.org/Maryland | [@marylandnokidhungry](https://twitter.com/marylandnokidhungry)



Watch *Every Kid. Healthy Food. Every Day.*

To: Howard County Council

From: Ayesha B. Holmes

Date: 1/19/21

RE: Appointment to LBHAB

My name is Ayesha Bajwa Holmes, and I reside in Sykesville, Maryland. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present testimony. As a long time, resident of Howard County, my goal is to serve the County as a voice for those living with behavioral health needs so that all people may thrive, regardless of challenges they may face. For the past 25 years I have worked in the field of behavioral health, as an outreach worker, case manager, program director and executive director. I have seen the impact of good and bad policy on the programs and the lives of those needing services.

Also, I have personally had the opportunity to witness when things go well! I hope that my experiences both personal, as a family member of someone who is finally thriving in spite of a mental health disorder, and as a professional will enable me to serve effectively as a member of the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board. In my past position, as the Executive Director of Grassroots, I worked closely with our team members to provide services to both the population of Howard County experiencing homelessness and those in need of behavioral health crisis services, including suicide prevention and treatment for substance misuse. Prior to Grassroots, I ran the Statewide Care Management Entity serving over 500 youth with serious mental health needs. Through a promising practice, known as High Fidelity Wraparound, our program was able to successfully divert youth from being placed in residential treatment or detention. The success rate for diversion was 94%. Both of these positions allowed me to serve in meaningful ways and learn the processes that lead to success.

Those living with behavioral health needs must be able to access services in an equitable manner with as much dignity and care as any other medical service. As we move forward with the thinking about what behavioral health care is, we must examine the data to understand what is working, and to learn how to improve the areas that are lagging. In this examination, we must also keep a keen eye on the quality of the experience, the need to reduce stigma and ensure quick and efficient access to necessary and in many cases, life saving services.

I look forward to serving along side my fellow members and with the Howard County Behavioral Health Authority.

Sayers, Margery

From: joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR4-2021 Local Behavior Health Advisory Board Misapplies the State Law

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

I believe that the 4-year term in CR4-2021 is a misapplication of the State law and in conflict with the recently amended Charter.

The Local Behavior Health Advisory Board is a body under § 8-1001(b). Thus, § 8-1001(c) does not apply ("**Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section**"). Which means that the 4-year term in § 8-1001(d) is not applicable ("Term. -- (1) The term of a member **appointed under subsection (c) of this section is 4 years**"); the 4-year term does not apply to a body under § 8-1001(b).

Furthermore, if the State law 4-year term had been applicable, then the existing members of the Local Behavior Health Advisory Board would not have 5-year terms as stated on the Board's website: "The HCLBHA Board will include a total of 28 members: 18 are appointed members for five-year terms." Thus, it is also unclear how a new 4-year term arose for a board that was only created in 2018.

The Administration and County Solicitor have not responded to multiple attempts to clarify these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Joel Hurewitz

- [MD - Annotated Code of Maryland](#)
- [HEALTH - GENERAL](#)
- [TITLE 8. SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS LAW.](#)
- [SUBTITLE 10. LOCAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNCILS](#)

§ 8-1001. In general

(a) Established. -- Each county shall have a local drug and alcohol abuse council.

(b) Designation of certain bodies as council. -- On application from a county, the Governor or the Governor's designee may designate a county criminal justice coordinating council, substance abuse advisory council, or other agency or organization as the local drug and alcohol abuse council for that county.

(c) Composition. -- Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a local drug and alcohol abuse council shall consist of the following individuals:

- (1) The health officer of the local health department, or the health officer's designee;
- (2) The director of the local department of social services, or the director's designee;
- (3) The Regional Director of the Department of Juvenile Services, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Regional Director of the Division of Parole and Probation, or the Director's designee;

- (5) The State's Attorney for the county, or the State's Attorney's designee;
- (6) The district public defender for the district in which the county is located, or the district public defender's designee;
- (7) The chief of the county police department, if the county has a police force, or the sheriff, if the county does not have a police force, or that individual's designee;
- (8) The president of the local board of education, or the president's designee;
- (9) A representative of the county executive, the Mayor of Baltimore City, or the county commissioners or county council in counties with no county executive, as appropriate;
- (10) For charter counties and in Baltimore City, a representative of the county council or the city council in Baltimore City, appointed by the chairperson or president of the county council or city council;
- (11) The county administrative judge of the circuit court for the county, or the judge's designee;
- (12) The administrative judge of the district court for that district, or the judge's designee; and
- (13) The following individuals appointed by the county executive, the Mayor of Baltimore City, or the county commissioners or county council in counties with no county executive, as appropriate:
 - (i) At least one recipient of addictions treatment services;
 - (ii) Two substance abuse providers, at least one of whom has experience with services to individuals with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders;
 - (iii) At least one substance abuse prevention provider;
 - (iv) At least one individual who is knowledgeable and active on substance abuse issues that affect the county;
 - (v) The superintendent, warden, or director of the local correctional facility located in the county or in Baltimore City the warden of the Baltimore City Detention Center; and
 - (vi) At least one other individual who is knowledgeable about treatment of substance abuse in the county, including members of civic organizations, the chamber of commerce, health care professional organizations, or the clergy.

(d) Term. --

- (1) The term of a member appointed under subsection (c) of this section is 4 years.
- (2) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the council on July 1, 2004.
- (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
- (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(e) Duties. -- The local drug and alcohol abuse council shall:

- (1) Determine its own governing structure, including issues relating to appointment of a member to serve as chairman;
- (2) Develop and submit a plan to the Administration as required in this section;
- (3) Submit a summary report to the Governor or the Governor's designee on or before December 1, 2004, on its membership, organization, rules, progress in developing a plan, and compliance with this section; and
- (4)
 - (i) On July 1, 2005, and every 2 years thereafter, submit a local plan as described in subsection (f) of this section to the Governor, or the Governor's designee; and
 - (ii) Report every 6 months to the Administration on its progress in implementing the plan.

(f) Local plans. -- A local plan shall:

- (1) Include the plans, strategies, and priorities of the county for meeting the identified needs of the general public and the criminal justice system for alcohol and drug abuse evaluation, prevention, and treatment services;
- (2) Include a survey of all federal, State, local, and private funds used in the county for alcohol and drug abuse evaluation, prevention, and treatment; and
- (3) Be in a format as prescribed by the Administration.

(g) Application for funds. -- A county or unit of a county applying for funds from a State unit for any alcohol or drug abuse evaluation, prevention, or treatment services within that county shall submit that application to the local drug and alcohol abuse council for its consideration.

(h) Application for funds -- Review of application. --

- (1) The local drug and alcohol abuse council may recommend to any federal or State unit or private foundation that an application for any funds for drug or alcohol abuse evaluation, prevention, or treatment services in the county be approved.
- (2)
 - (i) A local drug and alcohol abuse council shall consider whether the grant application is consistent with the local plan and the strategies and priorities set out in the local plan.
 - (ii) A recommendation by a local drug and alcohol abuse council may include any additional information the council considers useful to the governmental unit or private foundation in its consideration of the application.

(i) Duties of Administration. --

- (1) The Administration may provide each local drug and alcohol abuse council with any necessary technical assistance.

(2) The Administration shall provide any funds available from the Maryland Substance Abuse Fund or other sources for operation of a local council on submission of a request for funds and approval of a budget in accordance with Administration regulations.

(j) **State funding required.** -- The planning, reporting, and reviewing requirements for a local drug and alcohol abuse council under this section do not apply unless appropriate State funding for fulfilling the requirements has been provided.



Executive Appointment

Whereas... The Howard County Executive reposes special trust and confidence in the ability and character of Ayesha Holmes; and

Whereas... by its Resolution No. CR4-2021 dated March 1, 2021 the County Council did advise and consent to this appointment.

Now therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 6.300 of the Howard County Code and Section 404 of the Howard County Charter, I hereby appoint

Ayesha Holmes

A Member of the

**Howard County Local Behavioral Health
Advisory Board**

This APPOINTMENT shall become effective
as of March 1, 2021 and shall extend to February 1, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand
and affixed the seal of Howard County, Maryland,
on this 1st day of March 2021.

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

