

Kent County
LDAAC
Meeting Minutes

August 5th, 2026

Welcome/Introductions – Jennifer McCready, Director Community Addictions Services

Motion was made to approve the July 1st, 2026 minutes. Motion 2nd. All approved.

Carla Thorpe, Health Officer

- Awaiting decision regarding rural health transformation grant
- The new Program Director for the Whitsitt Center will be starting today.
- Walk in hours are still available at Whitsitt Center. For more information call 410-778-6404

Presenter: Nikki Clark, Outreach Coordinator

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore

csr@shorebiglittle.org

540-383-2383

Katie Dilley & Team - Mid Shore Behavioral Health -

- Awaiting final award letter for Rural Health Transformation Funds
- Fiscal Year 2027 budget is being adjusted due to a reduction in state general fund programming.
- Going Purple Together, September 26th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Milton Park in Talbot County
 - **Ashley Strazza** - 7 New Peers have been trained in the RAMP Grant program. August 10th the remainder of the 15th slots will be completed.
 - **Ann Simpers** - Purple Paddle, Sunday, September 20th in Caroline County
 - 8:00am Service in honor and memory of recovery month
 - 9:00am Paddle
 - Vendor Sign Up <https://forms.gle/eakytxbeD91cEVcu8>

Marcus Webster - Maryland Office of Overdose (MOOR)

- Virtual Town Hall Series for the Eastern Shore, Thursday, August 6th, 2026
- Funding availability for state opioid funds closing in September
- Share your events for Recovery Month on our website calendar at <https://stopoverdose.maryland.gov/events/>

Pete Landon - Kent County Office of Emergency Services

- 2 suspected overdose calls in July

Melanie D. Jones-Dalziel - MDH - State Care Coordination/Overdose Fatality Review(OFR)

- 11 individuals + 1 carryover was referred to State Care Coordination
- 10 went to recovery housing and received MDRN funding
- 9 were warm transfers to other counties
- For more information contact: melanied.jones-dalziel@maryland.gov

Brett Forrest - RIM/OPT/NHIH -

- The Rim Team Peers have been active in various community outreach activities and events.
 - Annual Teen Group was coordinated at Minary's Dream Alliance
 - 2 calls on the No Harm In Helping phone,
 - 65 boxes of Narcan and 17 sets of testing strips were distributed.

- Outreach is scheduled in Millington at the Town Hall on August 11th, and at Kent County DSS on August 28th, 2:00-4:00pm
- Men's Group on Wednesday's and Women's Group on Thursday's 4-5pm
- Overdose Awareness Night on Monday, August 31st 6:00-8:00 pm

Narcan, wound care kits, safe sex kits, hygiene kits, and various test strips are available at RIM.

For questions and/or peer services you may call the No Harm In Helping phone 24/7/365 at 410-490-4175.

Sheriff Dennis Hickman - Law Enforcement

- September 13th, 2026 Kent Goes Purple 5K Color Fun Run/Walk At Wilmer Park 8:30AM Registration will be on [Active.com](https://www.active.com)

Vandrick Hamlin - Education

- August 17th, 2026 New Teachers Report
- August 24th, 2026 All Staff Report
- August 31st, 2026 Grades 1st - 6th and 9th
- September 1st, 2026 Grades 7th & 8th, and 10th - 12th
- September 2nd, 2026 Pre-K & Kindergarten
- September 4th and 7th, 2026 Schools Closed
- September 16th, 2026 Students Half of Day (Staff Professional Day)

Christina Russell - DHS - START

- Midshore Direct Line Call has been moved to September 29th, 2026

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Record of Attendance

Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Chloe Campbell, Nikki Clark, Latonya Cotton, Kathryn Dilley, Chief Ronald Dixon, Brett Forrest, Vandrick Hamlin, Vanessa Holloway Truxon, J Howard, Melanie Jones-Dalziel, Pete Landon, Jennifer McCready, Joanne McNamara, Shelly Neal-Edwards, Brian Pearsall, Desiree Rochester, Christina Russell, Jacqueline Salb, Lauren Searce, Ann Simpers, Taylor Smith, Tamara Stofa, Ashley Strazza, Carla Thorpe, Marcus Webster, Sheriff Dennis Hickman, Dorian Dean, Natalie Hagan, Shawn Hart

Next meeting date: September 2nd, 2026 Virtual

REMINDER: If there is anyone from your agency that you would like to add or delete from the LDAAC meeting list, please reach out to Desiree Rochester at desirees.rochester@maryland.gov. Thank you!