



The University of Baltimore
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Report
January 2022-January 2024

Administrative Policy and Compliance Committee
Division of Student Success and Support Services
Office of Human Resources

Context

The federal Drug-Free Schools and Campuses regulations (cf. EDGAR Part 86) require educational institutions receiving federal aid to provide programming to prevent substance abuse, including the abuse of alcohol, and to assess the effectiveness of such programming on a biennial basis. An annual notification related to this programming is also required. The annual notification can be disseminated in a few ways, in sections or as a comprehensive report, as long as the means of sharing the information has a reasonable expectation of reaching all students and employees.

Further, these regulations call for a biennial review of the effectiveness of this preventative programming. Reporting is expected to address the letter of the law and the spirit of the law and identify programming gaps so that more evidence-based practices can be incorporated for the benefit of all campus community members. The biennial report is to include standards of conduct; possible sanctions and other penalties for violating relevant laws and campus policies; statements about the health risks associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) covered by the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 811); and services available to students and employees, including treatment options.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act also requires the biennial report of that review to be available as part of general Title IV federal financial aid compliance, and institutions must provide a copy of its biennial report to the US Department of Education or its representative upon request.

The University of Baltimore (UBalt) is a non-residential campus with a large part-time population that includes many adult learners. As a non-residential campus, student behavior on UBalt's campus does not follow the patterns often seen at traditional residential college campuses. The greatest concentration of more traditional students is in UBalt's School of Law and a small first year cohort.

The University of Baltimore Policy on Drug and Alcohol Use

The use or abuse of controlled or illegal substances, and alcohol, pose a serious threat to the health and welfare of a large segment of the college student population through a lessening of academic performance, estrangement of social relations, creation of mental health and physiological problems, vandalism, and in some cases bodily injury, illness, and death.

The University of Baltimore drug and alcohol policies are designed to help protect the health and welfare of students, observe state, federal and local laws and maintain an atmosphere and environment appropriate for learning. To review the policy in its entirety, please use the following link:

[UB IV-1.1 Policy on Drug and Alcohol Use](#)

Alcohol Policy

The University of Baltimore permits the use of alcoholic beverages in designated areas on campus if such use is in conformity with all applicable alcoholic beverage laws and the specific University regulations. The use of alcoholic beverages on campus or at off-campus University sponsored events must also be consistent with the maintenance of a high standard of conduct conducive to learning.

Drug Policy

The University of Baltimore is committed to using all available means to prevent illegal activities on campus. Use, possession, sale, distribution, and being under the influence of controlled substances or illegal substances on University premises or at University-organized activities is strictly prohibited, except as permitted by law.

Commentary:

Please be advised that despite recent legislation in Maryland, which partially legalized the possession and use of cannabis for adults 21 and older, the use, possession, sale and distribution of cannabis remains prohibited on University property. While Maryland law partially legalized cannabis for those 21 and older, it remains a controlled substance under federal law and the University is obligated to comply with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Under Maryland law, use of cannabis in public spaces also remains illegal. Those who have medical cannabis certificates are also prohibited from using cannabis on University property. Students should direct any questions or concerns to the University's Office of Disability and Access Services, and employees should direct any questions or concerns to Human Resources.

Amnesty Policy

The health and welfare of our community is the University's primary concern. Any student who seeks help for themselves or another person during a medical emergency while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will not be charged by the University with a violation of University policy for being under the influence. Additionally, the person for whom help is sought will not be charged with a violation of University policy for being under the influence.

Related Policies

The University of Baltimore has a no smoking policy that has been in effect since 2005; see [UBII-6.1: No Smoking Policy](#). Smoking is prohibited within all University vehicles, University buildings, and within 15 feet of the entrance to University buildings.

Standards and Sanctions

Legal Sanctions for Alcohol

Students and employees of the University of Baltimore are subject to state laws for possessing, consuming and obtaining alcohol. It is illegal in Maryland for anyone under 21 to falsify or misrepresent their age to obtain alcohol or to possess alcoholic beverages with the intent to consume them. It is also illegal in most situations to furnish alcohol to a person under 21 or to obtain alcohol on behalf of a person under 21. The penalty is a fine of up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for repeat offenses. Under section *TR16-113* of the Maryland *Annotated Code*, licensees under the age of 21 years are prohibited from driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having alcohol in the licensee's blood. Violation of this license restriction may result in a license suspension or revocation and/or a fine.

All sales, distribution, and consumption of alcoholic beverages must conform to regulations of the University as set forth herein, to the regulations of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for

Baltimore City, and the laws of the state of Maryland. Specifically, *Article 2B* of the Annotated Code of Maryland (Alcoholic Beverages Law):

1. Prohibits selling or permitting consumption of alcoholic beverages after the prescribed hours (*Section 86*);
2. Prohibits permitting any person to drink any alcoholic beverage not purchased from the license holder on the premises covered by the license and not permitted by the license to be consumed on the premises (*Section 114*);
3. Prohibits selling or furnishing any alcoholic beverages to a minor or a person visibly under the influence of any alcoholic beverage (*Section 18*). The City of Baltimore Liquor Board requires that a one-day liquor license be obtained and displayed at any event where beer and wine are sold (Liquor Board Rules and Regulations Rule 1.10) or that a caterer with off-sale caterer privilege be used (Liquor Board Rules and Regulations Rule 1.09)

Campus Violations for Alcohol

Violation of any regulation regarding alcoholic beverages will be adjudicated through the University's judicial system, and where appropriate, through legal action. Students and organizations found to be in violation shall face a range of University sanctions as provided in the Code of Conduct, including but not be limited to, disciplinary reprimand, loss of privilege, restitution, disciplinary probation, disciplinary suspension, disciplinary dismissal, and disciplinary expulsion.

Legal Sanctions for Drugs

Students and employees at the University of Baltimore are subject to federal, state and local laws regarding the possession and distribution of illegal drugs. *Federal Law 21 USCA, sections 841 and 844*, states that it is unlawful to possess, manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance. In addition, the state of Maryland has additional laws dealing with distribution, manufacturing, and possession of controlled substances. Maryland law (*Sections 5-601, 5-602 and 5-607, Criminal Law Article*) states that any persons who unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense or possess a controlled dangerous substance may be subject to imprisonment for up to 5 years and fines up to \$25,000. *Maryland. Ann. Code Art. 27, section 286 (1989)*, further states that *any person who unlawfully manufactures or distributes any controlled dangerous substances may be fined up to \$25,000 and may be imprisoned for up to 20 years for a first offense.*

Federal law 21 USC, sections 841 and 844–845a (1990), states that it is unlawful to possess any controlled substance for any illegal purpose. If the substance is cocaine, or contains a cocaine base, the penalty for simple possession is a fine and/or imprisonment from 5 to 20 years. For other illegal drugs, the penalty for simple possession is a fine of at least \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 3 years. The penalties increase if the possession includes intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance, especially if done so near a public or private elementary, vocational, or secondary school, or a public or private college or university. Additionally, any person who violates this law shall also be liable to the United States for an amount up to \$10,000 in civil penalties.

Convictions related to controlled and/or illegal substances will adversely impact a student's ability to receive federal financial aid.

Also, in Baltimore City, under *Article 19, section 58C of the City Code*, it is illegal to loiter in a certified drug-free zone, with penalties of imprisonment of up to 30 days and a fine of up to \$400.

Campus Violations for Drugs

Violations of laws and university policies and regulations regarding the use of controlled/illegal substances and alcohol at on-campus or University-organized activities off-campus are subject to prosecution through both law enforcement authorities and the campus judicial system. Penalties through the latter authority will depend on a careful review of the facts and circumstances of each individual case but will take into consideration such factors as the accused person's previous record, the nature of the substance, and the degree of culpability. The range of university penalties shall include, but not be limited to, disciplinary reprimand, loss of privilege, restitution, disciplinary probation, disciplinary suspension, disciplinary dismissal, and disciplinary expulsion.

Campus Safety and Security Report

Specific information regarding incidents including drugs and alcohol that occurred on campus can be found in the Annual Security Reports below:

- [Annual Campus Security Report - 2022](#)
- [Annual Campus Security Report - 2023](#)

Health Risks

Substance abuse is recognized as the number one public health problem in the United States accounting for about 150,000 deaths annually. This includes deaths from stroke, disease of the heart and liver, and all alcohol and drug related suicides, homicides and accidents. About 30 percent of all those admitted to general hospitals and 50 percent to psychiatric hospitals have detectable substance abuse.

[Alcohol Use and Your Health \(Center for Disease Control, 2024\)](#)

[Know the Risks of Using Drugs \(SAMHSA, 2024\)](#)

Substance Abuse Prevention Program

The University of Baltimore has several different methods and strategies in place to promote substance abuse prevention and education.

Campus Notification

A campus notification is sent every fall and spring semester that reminds students of policies and regulations that are in place to help build a healthy, safe and positive university community. The notification highlights specific policies and directs students to the student handbook where they can review all policies. It is also made available and updated on the Office of Student Support website regularly. The specific information that is posted about alcohol and drugs can be found below.

Alcohol and Drugs

UBalt encourages all students to make healthy and safe choices. The University of Baltimore is committed to being a safe and supportive community. As such, the university upholds all federal, state

and local laws and its own policies and procedures for alcohol and other drugs. For a complete list of the federal, state, local and campus policies that govern the use of alcohol and drugs, please review Section IV 1.1 of [The University of Baltimore Policy Guide](#). You will also find this information in the [Student Handbook](#). Students or employees found to be in violation of federal, state, local or campus policies may be subject to disciplinary actions that may include mandatory meetings with a university official, suspension, dismissal or other appropriate sanctions. Students in need of counseling or rehabilitative services are encouraged to contact the [Office of Student Support](#) or the [Student Assistance Program \(SAP\)](#).

Commentary:

Employees seeking assistance are encouraged to contact [Human Resources](#) to request information about Family & Medical Leave/Reasonable Accommodations for treatment and recovery or the [Employee Assistance Program](#).

Despite Maryland's partial legalization, all cannabis use and possession remain prohibited on University property, including medical cannabis. This aligns with federal law and our obligation to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

The University supports positive decision-making and a healthy campus environment. Students can access the AlcoholEDU and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention tutorials via the following link: <https://ubaltstudentsmd.vectorlmsedu.com/training/home>

Campus Safety Naloxone Program

Policing for The University of Baltimore was transferred to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department (UMBPD) on March 28, 2022. Authority of administration of the naloxone program has been transferred to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department (UMBPD). Mandatory training for designated personnel is completed on a rolling basis. This training includes recognizing the symptoms of an opioid overdose, procedures for the administration of over-dose reducing medication, and the proper follow-up emergency procedures following an incident related to an opioid overdose.

UMBPD Naloxone/Narcan Procedures

UMBPD's procedures for administering Naloxone can be found here: [Naloxone Narcan Procedures.pdf \(umaryland.edu\)](#).

UBalt has also formed an ongoing partnership with [Love in the Trenches \(LITT\)](#), a Maryland non-profit organization, and participates in their Undo the OD program to provide Narcan kits and training to staff, students, and faculty. During 2023's International Overdose Awareness Day programming, LITT trained 50 University community members and distributed 100 doses of naloxone.

First-Year Seminar

All First-Year Seminars use an open-source text, which includes a specific section on Drug and Alcohol typically covered towards the end of the course. Additionally, in the Fall of 2021 a pilot was launched to allow students to receive extra-credit in the course if they completed the Vector Alcohol Edu and RX Prescription Drug tutorial. In all approximately 20 students participated in the pilot. The pilot continued

throughout the 2022-2023 academic year however, lapsed during the 2023-2024 academic year. Discussion is ongoing about reimplementing the pilot as well as opportunities to utilize the tutorials within the course curriculum.

Student Event Planning

Undergraduate, graduate and School of Law student organizations receive specific information, guidance and training regarding risk management and planning events that may involve alcohol. This information is available via the student organization online platform. Additionally, events that involve alcohol must include the following requirements:

- Designate an Event Chairperson
- Reserve your event space (as outlined previously for on campus events).
- Request quote from a caterer with a liquor license.
- Ensure your advisor is available to be present at the event. At least one of the organization's advisors or advisor's designee must be present at the event.
 - The requirement to have an advisor present is waived if **ALL** of the following apply:
 - Participants are purchasing their own alcohol, i.e. the student organization is not paying for or facilitating the purchase of alcohol.
 - The venue where the event is being held has a liquor license, is providing the alcohol and servers.
 - The event is held off campus.
 - An example of an event where an advisor would not need to be present is a happy hour held at a restaurant where the student organization is purchasing food but there is a cash bar for those in attendance.
- Complete the Student Organization Alcohol Agreement Form in CampusGroups_ Law student organizations will submit the request through the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) in the School of Law via the event request form in CampusGroups.
- The Center for Student Engagement and Inclusion (CSEI) and UMBPD will review your request. You will receive a notification once your request to serve alcohol has been approved.
- Obtain an invoice from a caterer with a Liquor License for the serving and providing the beer and wine.
- Complete an Event Incident Report after the event and submit it to CSEI or UBalt School of Law.

For a complete list of the requirements for student organizations wishing to host events with the alcohol policy please visit the following link:

- Undergraduate and Graduate:
<https://involvement.ubalt.edu/csei/event%20policies%20/#Student-Org-Alcohol-Policy>
- School of Law (beginning on page 13):
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaid%3Ausc%3A34af30f6-d952-3506-a3be-05350e48a28b&viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>

Regulations for the Marketing, Sale, Distribution, and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at University Events

All state, federal and local laws must be observed when marketing, selling and consuming alcoholic beverages.

Designated Areas

Alcoholic beverages may only be served and consumed in areas designated and approved by the Office of Auxiliary Services. When sold by student groups, a request to serve alcoholic beverages must be submitted to and approved by the Center for Student Involvement thirty days prior to the event.

Precautionary Measures

Individuals or organizations sponsoring events on or off-campus are to implement precautionary measures to ensure that alcoholic beverages are not abused, accessible, or served to persons under the legal drinking age (21) or to persons who appear intoxicated. Such measures shall include but not be limited to: identification and age verification checks, wristbands or hand stamps identifying those eligible to drink alcoholic beverages, having designated servers distribute all alcoholic beverages, prohibiting any form of drinking "contest" or game, restricting distribution of free and inexpensive alcoholic beverages, informing and arranging for UB police to be on call for all events, and having nonalcoholic beverages and food available where alcoholic beverages are served.

Advertising/Promotion

Promotional materials including advertisement of University events may not:

1. Refer to the amount and price of alcoholic beverages (such as the number of beer kegs available),
2. Encourage any form of alcohol abuse,
3. Place emphasis on quantity and frequency of use,
4. Associate alcohol consumption with the performance of tasks that require skilled reactions such as the operation of motor vehicles or machinery, or
5. Portray drinking as a solution to personal or academic problems of students or as necessary to social, sexual, or academic success. All promotional materials shall note the availability of nonalcoholic beverages as prominently as alcohol. Alcoholic beverages may not be used as inducement to participate in a university/student organization sponsored event. Display or availability of promotional material for both on-campus and off-campus events shall be determined in consultation with the Director for the Center for Student Involvements or his/her designee.

Campus Marketing Programs

Campus marketing programs which include controlled sampling are permitted but shall conform to all University alcohol regulations, including the availability of alternative nonalcoholic beverages and food. No uncontrolled sampling as part of a campus event is permitted. The consumption of alcoholic beverages shall not be the sole purpose of any promotional activity. Marketing programs should have educational value and subscribe to the philosophy of responsible and legal use of the products

represented. Marketers shall support campus alcohol awareness programs that encourage informed and responsible decisions about the use or nonuse of alcoholic beverages.

Free Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited

Alcoholic beverages may not be provided as promotions, free awards or prizes to individual students or campus organizations. Free alcoholic beverages may not be served at student events without prior approval from the Director for the Center for Student Involvement or his/her designee.

Office of Student Support Initiatives

The Office of Student Support has taken several steps over the last two calendar years to help address drug and alcohol prevention. These initiatives include the following:

Semester	Initiative	Description
Fall 2021 - Ongoing	Screening, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment Training	The Office of Student Support Sub-committee focused on Drug and Alcohol and completed this online training made available by University of Maryland School of Medicine.
Spring 2022	UMatter Week	UMatter provides UBalt students, staff, and faculty with the skills necessary to safely identify and help individuals in need, including overdose prevention.
Spring 2022	Professional development opportunity related to cannabis in Maryland.	Promoted and attended an event hosted by Towson University, "Marijuana in Maryland: What we know, what we don't know, and what Annapolis needs to do next."
Fall 2022 - Ongoing	Mental Health First Aid Training	The Office of Student Support's Clinical Case Manager trains students and employees in Mental Health First Aid.
Fall 2022	I Will Listen Week	Organize events and programming as a part of NAMI's I Will Listen Campaign.
Spring 2023	UMatter Week	UMatter provides UBalt students, staff, and faculty with the skills necessary to safely identify and help individuals in need, including overdose prevention.

Spring 2023 - Ongoing	Messaging to campus community on cannabis legalization	A message was sent to the campus community providing a brief overview of changes in law, how the law affects UBalt campus, and guidelines for lower risk.
Fall 2023	International Overdose Awareness Day Event	Love in the Trenches (LITT) provided Narcan training and test kits to UBalt community.
Fall 2023	I Will Listen Week	Organize events and programming as a part of NAMI's I Will Listen Campaign
Spring 2024	Cannabis Edibles Tabling	Tabling was done on the risks associated with edible cannabis, particularly the risk of misunderstanding portions and THC content and the risk of over-intoxication.

Alcohol and Other Drug preventions Efforts at UBalt Working Group

The Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Efforts at UBalt Working Group was established in the Fall of 2020. The group's membership consists of representatives from the Office of Student Support, Center for Student Engagement and Inclusion, Human Resources, the UBalt School of Law, Campus Safety and University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department. The group met quarterly, typically twice a semester since its launch, to discuss the various on-going initiatives surrounding Drug and Alcohol Prevention at the institution. The list of initiatives the group has been involved with has included the following:

Semester	Initiative	Description
Fall 2020-Ongoing	Resource and Development Sharing	During the regular meetings, information about upcoming training, partnerships, or other opportunities for the group to develop a greater understanding around the challenges of addiction are announced and reviewed.
Spring 2022	Finalization of AOD Mission Statement	
Fall 2022 – Ongoing	Development of Policy for Events with Alcohol outside of Student Organizations	A memo to the Administrative Policy Committee was created and a small team assembled to draft a policy.
Fall 2022 – Ongoing	Preparation for Cannabis Legalization	AOD members attended a virtual cannabis symposium to

		inform group on best practices for educating college campuses.
Spring 2023	Changes to Vector Access	Direct access to AlcoholEDU tutorial without needing to complete an access form prior.
Summer 2023	Updated UBalt Alcohol and Drug Policy	Updated policy to include information on cannabis legalization and effect of legalization on campus community.
Fall 2023 - Ongoing	UBalt Became a Member of the Maryland Collaborative	The Maryland Collaborative is a network of Maryland colleges and universities working together with community partners to reduce excessive alcohol use in their campus communities. Joining the Collaborative will allow UBalt to participate in a student survey in Spring 2025.
Spring 2024	Connection of Maryland Collaborative with UBalt Admissions	Facilitated a meeting with the admissions offices of UBalt to provide educational information related to substance use to newly admitted students.

Treatment and Referrals

Additional Information can be obtained at the following sites:

Addictions Hotline- 1.800.559.9503

[Baltimore Area Narcotics Anonymous](#)

[Baltimore Intergroup Council of Alcoholics Anonymous](#)

[Baltimore County Substance Abuse Program-](#) 410.887.3828

[Marian House](#)

[Maryland Alcohol and Drug Administration](#)

[Maryland’s Behavioral Health Administration](#)

[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) - 1.800.662.HELP (4357) or 1.800.487.4889

[University of Maryland Treatment Sites](#)

Employee Education and Resources

Employees are educated about the [State of Maryland Substance Abuse Policy](#) on the [Human Resources New Employee Onboarding](#) portion of the university website and during new employee orientation. This

portion of the website also has information about the [Employee Assistance Program](#) which provides confidential assistance from licensed professionals for alcohol/ substance abuse and additional support. Employees may self-refer, or they may be referred by a manager or Human Resources. The Employee Assistance Program information can also be found within the campus web portal with several other important resources. Employees may also contact the Employee Relations Specialists to receive additional resources and support. Employees are also informed of their rights and protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Employees also have access to numerous off-campus resources, including the following noted below:

1. [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMSHA), provides a Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator, which is a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities in the United States or U.S. Territories for substance abuse/addiction and/or mental health problems.
2. SAMSHA also offers free and confidential information in English and Spanish for individuals and family members facing substance abuse and mental health issues, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access SAMSHA's National Helpline, individuals can call 1.800. 662.HELP (4357) or use 1.800.487.4889.
3. [Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration](#) offers several resources related to drug treatment and drug prevention.
4. Free support and resources for smoking cessation. For more details, individuals can call 1.800.QUIT.NOW (1.800.784.8669) and visit smokefree.gov.

Center for Public Safety Innovation and Center for Advancing Prevention Excellence

In October 2023, UBalt's Center for Drug and Policy Enforcement (CDPE) was divided into two centers: The Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI) and the Center for Advancing Prevention Excellence (CAPE).

The University of Baltimore's Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI) is a nationally renowned applied research center within the College of Public Affairs designed to support community safety initiatives by leveraging nationally recognized policy experts, advocates, and scholars dedicated to identifying best practices and policies to reduce violence and drug trafficking.

CPSI's mission is to invest in and evaluate practices that impact and reduce violence and drug trafficking in communities. We are a unit funded exclusively through external grants that include a robust grant portfolio of federal, state, and non-profit funded activities. As the home of the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (W/B HIDTA) program, we remain at the forefront of research and best practices designed to disrupt and dismantle drug and money laundering activities connected to an international network of law enforcement and public health professionals dedicated to saving lives. This activity uniquely positions the CPSI to leverage resources effectively making significant impacts across the country.

The Center for Advancing Prevention Excellence (CAPE) seeks to advance prevention efforts in communities across the nation by supporting them in the identification, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based strategies for substance use and behavioral health. A focus on translating science,

navigating approaches and resources, and connecting to peers and resources guides the Center as it brings evidence-based strategies to life for numerous audiences. Practice, research, and community collaboration are at the forefront of CAPE initiatives along with an understanding of the strengths and opportunities within the field of prevention science. Youth, young adults, and family populations will receive special attention by CAPE as new programs, practices, and policies emerge.

CAPE will apply lessons learned from prevention science to support communities in developing and implementing a thoughtful approach to strengthening the wellbeing of their communities. Given the focus on prevention, primary populations of interest include youth, young adults, and families.

CAPE services and resources will include training, consultation, resource development, and other types of support. CAPE leverages the expertise of University of Baltimore faculty and staff and collaborates with an extended network of prevention partners at community, regional, state, and national levels.

Progress from the 2020-2022 Report

There has been significant development since the previous biennial report covering 2020-2022. In September 2023 the University of Baltimore joined the Maryland Collaborative, a network of Maryland colleges and universities working together with community partners to reduce excessive alcohol use in their campus communities. Joining the collaborative will allow the university to participate in the Maryland College Survey to collect standardized information on the levels of alcohol and other substance use, and on mental health concerns in UBalt's community. Along with participation in the College Survey, becoming a member of the Collaborative grants UBalt access to educational resources on alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs and allows for quicker connection to Maryland colleagues conducting the same AOD related work.

Internally, a position was created in the Office of Student Support (OSS) to focus on student health and wellness more directly and a cross-office partnership has been formed between OSS and the University's Bee Well Initiative - an initiative designed to meet student needs in addressing mental, physical and sexual health. Together, this partnership hosted an event on cannabis literacy featuring staff from Maryland's Cannabis Administration and faculty from University of Maryland, Baltimore's Masters in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics. The newly created OSS position also participates in UBalt's Alcohol and Other Drugs Prevention Work Group and leads initiatives to provide education and programming on public health concerns (e.g., Covid-19, Mpox).

Also, now available to the UBalt community is the offering of Mental Health First Aid Training, an early-intervention gatekeeper course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use challenges. This training is offered semesterly to faculty, staff, and students by UBalt's clinical case manager. To make education and resources on mental health and substance use more accessible, a 'Mental Health Support' button was added to the University's learning management system, Canvas. Given UBalt's non-residential status, Canvas is one of the primary ways that students engage with the campus community and is therefore a platform with high engagement and visibility. Along with emergency resources related to mental health services, the Ask, Listen, Refer: Online Suicide Prevention Tutorial is available to the community via Canvas.

Since the statewide legalization of cannabis for individuals 21 years and older on July 1, 2023, program planning and development at UBalt has focused primarily on educating the community about cannabis use, its associated risks, and what's known scientifically about outcomes from personal use.

Lastly, due to a change in state policy, there is greater complexity regarding the purchase of alcohol with state dollars and while the effect of this policy is still being discussed, the purchases of alcohol by the University of Baltimore are now under greater restriction.

Recommendations

The Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Efforts at UBalt Working Group has identified some key areas of refinement that are needed to the campus-wide drug and alcohol policy for it to best suit the needs of the campus. While the process for events with alcohol for student groups is well established and includes many of the best practices, a lack of clear oversight for Administrative Policy Committee for a comprehensive and thoughtful policy. While some efforts have been discussed, ongoing work towards clearer and more robust standards will be essential to continue progress made over the last several years.

Another area of focus will include strengthening our partnership with the Maryland Collaborative to provide the campus community with evidence-based recommendations for abstaining from and lowering risks associated with alcohol and substance use. It is advised to maintain ongoing collaboration and actively seek input from the Maryland Collaborative to ensure our practices align with the latest research and best practices in the field.

This partnership will include implementing UBalt's first Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) survey in collaboration with the Maryland Collaborative in the spring of 2025. This initiative will enable data-driven decision-making and allow us to tailor our programs and interventions to the specific needs of our campus community. We suggest using this survey to gather valuable information about the prevalence and patterns of substance use among our students, faculty, and staff.

Additionally, considering recent events the University will continue to closely monitor and respond to the state's recent cannabis legislation. We advise providing appropriate resources, support, and accountability measures for our community considering these changes. This proactive approach will help address emerging challenges and ensure our policies and practices remain relevant and effective.

Lastly, as part of the institutions Bee Well Initiative, discussion has occurred regarding a collegiate recovery community. A community such as this requires developing a strong framework for success. This program could provide and enhance crucial support for students in recovery or seeking recovery from substance use disorders, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment that promotes overall well-being and academic success.