

# MD | B.I.T. AFFINITY



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Maryland Behavioral Intervention Team Affinity Group

### **Officer Slate June 2021 - May 2022:**

**Co-Chairpersons:** Alice Boatman, Montgomery College & Courtney Hart, Community College of Baltimore County

**Secretary:** Klaire Williams, Hagerstown Community College

**Technology Coordinator:** Vacant

**Affiliate Liaison:** Karyn Shulz, University of Baltimore

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During 2021-2022 the BIT Affinity Group focused on continuing to provide a space where member institutions can gather to discuss best practices in the field. The group has also continued to welcome local 4-year institutions into our meetings so the community colleges can share the knowledge gained about BIT/CARES with others who are just beginning their journeys as well as benefit from the perspective added by the other institutions.

### **Achievements for 2021-2022:**

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the BIT Affinity group held 8 meetings. Conference planning remained a big focus of the meetings along with sharing best practices. This year we added a “Maxient Showcase” session to a few of our meeting agendas and we made updates from our standing committees an ongoing agenda item. During the Maxeint Showcase, institutions shared unique ways they have maximized the use of Maxient software. Schools such as the Community College of Baltimore County and the University of Baltimore have expanded Maxient use to include academic and basic needs support.

Our standing committees remained active this year:

- The Professional Development committee arranged the following presentations:
  - “*Disability Support and BIT: Common Purpose & Overlapping Practices*” Presented by Joe Tatela
  - “*Listening is an Act of Love*” presented by Dr. Marty Kuchma and
  - “*Listening to Self is an Act of Love*” presented by Dr. DaVida Anderson.
- BIT Affinity also promoted multiple training opportunities being facilitated by our member institutions and related organizations.
- The Bylaws Review Committee completed the first review of the Bylaws and made several edits. This committee will continue to enhance the bylaws over the next year to include a grievance process and a process for tracking updates.

We held our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual BIT conference- [“The Pandemic Gambit: Changes in BIT Due to COVID-19”](#)- via Zoom on April 22, 2022. We were once again able to make the annual conference available at no cost. Although the focus remained on the effects of the Pandemic, programming consideration was given to the social justice efforts that have also been taking place and how they factor into BIT/CARES work at our institutions.



After seeing a large turnout at our 2021 virtual conference, and with consideration of the unpredictable nature of the ongoing pandemic, we decided to keep our annual conference virtual for 2022. This proved to be a good decision as we had our largest turnout to date and kept steady participation throughout the day. We had 171 registrants from over 50 institutions and 12 states!

This year, our conference chair was John “Jay” Coughlin from Howard Community College. Under his guidance, we had a similar format as 2021. We kept the opening panel, but instead of a keynote, we had two featured presentations. We also had a pre-conference workshop on April 21, 2022. Between sessions and after breaks/lunch, we used a random number generator to identify prize winners as a way of thanking participants and breaking up what can be heavy content. Conference topics included:

**April 21, 2022:**

**Pre-Conference Workshop-** “How to Document a Violence Risk Assessment and Threat Management Plan” by Brian Van Brunt, Secure Community Network and InterACTT and Jeff Solomon, DPrep

**April 22, 2022:**

**Opening Panel-** “BIT and the Pandemic: A Year in Transition”

**Featured Presentation-** “Intersection of Title IX & BIT” by Makenzie Schiemann, NABITA and Tim Cason, TNG

**Featured Presentation-** “Culturally Competent Threat Assessment” by Brian Van Brunt, Secure Community Network and InterACTT and Tammy Hodo, All Things Diverse

As it has been in the past, we benefited greatly from our ongoing partnership with Makenzie Schiemann from NABITA and Brian Van Brunt from InterACTT. They presented with their colleagues at the conference and donated multiple items for our giveaways, including a complimentary conference registration for NABITA’s annual conference, InterACTT memberships and book packages.

The Affinity Group awarded the 4th MD BIT Affinity Award for Excellence in the Field to Pavan Purswani of The University of Baltimore. The 3rd Up and Coming Professional in the Field Award was given to Anthony Davis-Crowder from Harford Community College and the 3rd Best/Promising Practice in the Field Award was given to The University of Baltimore for their Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

The Affinity Group continues to effectively utilize technology to support our mission. Our website contains information about all of our meetings and training opportunities, as well as our bylaws and mission. To increase awareness of our website, we no longer include agendas with our meeting communications. We link people to the website where the agendas are uploaded in advance of the meeting RSVP being sent.

- [www.bitaffinity.org](http://www.bitaffinity.org)
- [Marylandbit@gmail.com](mailto:Marylandbit@gmail.com)

### **Future Goals for 2021-2022**

For the coming year, we will be revisiting our meeting format with a focus on separating out most of the conference planning and decreasing the number of meetings. During our May 2022 meeting, we elected Klaire Williams of Hagerstown Community College as one of our co-chairs for the 2022-2023 year, but the additional positions on the Executive Board remain vacant. We have reopened nominations and look forward to filling these positions soon.

We have decided to keep our meetings virtual for the coming year to allow for easier participation. We will continue to promote in-person professional development opportunities provided by our member institutions and related organizations to provide different formats for those who do have the availability/interest in connecting with others in person.

The Bylaws Committee will continue to enhance the current bylaws by adding a grievance process and a process for reviewing the bylaws on a regular schedule and tracking edits. These efforts are a continuation resulting from the work this committee completed during this year.

### **Officer Slate June 2022 - May 2023:**

**Co-Chairperson:** Klaire Williams, Hagerstown Community College

**Co-Chairperson:** TBD

**Secretary:** TBD

**Technology Coordinator:** TBD

**Affiliate Liaison:** Karyn Schulz, The University of Baltimore

**Conference Chair (2022):** TBD

The BIT Affinity Group

**Submitted June 15, 2022, by:**

Alice Boatman, Co-chairperson MD BIT Affinity Group  
Courtney Hart, Co-chairperson MD BIT Affinity Group