

Behavioral Health Coalition of the Mid-Shore 2019 Legislative Priorities

SB 178 Behavioral Health Programs - Medical Directors - Telehealth

HB 1122 Outpatient Mental Health Centers - Requirements for Medical Directors

SB944 Behavioral Health Programs- Medical Directors-Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners

SB 178: Satisfies the requirement of the OMHC to meet regulations requiring medical directors to be on-site with the use of tele-health to comply with the 20 hours a week requirement.

Request that you SUPPORT: PASSED 4/2/19

HB1122: Satisfies regulations for OMHC medical director role to be expanded to be served by a psychiatric nurse practitioner, but needs to amend the on-site language to support tele-health.

Request that you SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT: PASSED 4/4/19

SB944: Psychiatric nurse practitioner to support medical director role in shortage areas, and with abandonment of medical director; language needed to reflect OMHC programs **only**, not all behavioral health programs.

Request that you SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT: 4/5/19

HB 846 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Managed Care Organizations - Behavioral Health Services

SB 482 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Managed Care Organizations - Behavioral Health Services

HB 846/SB 462 would shift responsibility for the delivery of public behavioral health services from one ASO to nine multiple for-profit managed care organizations. The move would jeopardize treatment for Marylanders who are not in Medicaid, threaten care coordination for high-risk populations, and divert provider resources away from treatment.

Maryland's behavioral health community – including the Mental Health Association of Maryland, Community Behavioral Health, On Our Own of Maryland, Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities, and others, opposes a financial carve-in.

Financial integration does not equal clinical integration.

MCO model could jeopardize treatment for users of the public behavioral health system who are not enrolled in Medicaid:

- Uninsured individuals
- Individuals 65 and older
- Individuals dually insured by Medicare and Medicaid

Services such as: 1) supported employment services that connect individuals with jobs, and 2) crisis beds, which divert individuals in psychiatric crisis from emergency departments and inpatient admissions would not be covered.

An MCO model would jeopardize coordination for high-risk populations.

Massive expansion of administrative functions. The state – and providers – will have to manage and interface with nine different processes and entities for credentialing, authorization and payment.

A decision of this magnitude during the legislative session requires thoughtful, inclusive and transparent planning process to determine next steps toward increased integration and accountability in the system of care.

Request that you OPPOSE SB 482/HB 846: WITHDRAWN 3/14/19

HB 829 Health Insurance - Provider Panels - Graduate Providers

This bill prohibits a carrier from rejecting a provider who provides community-based health services for an accredited program for participation on the carrier's provider panel solely because the provider is a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW), a licensed master social worker (LMSW), or a licensed graduate professional counselor (LGPC).

Request that you SUPPORT HB 829: PASSED 4/3/19

SB 280-Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for Fifteen)

HB 166- Labor and Employment – Payment of Wages – Minimum Wage (Fight for Fifteen)

In the last 23 years, Maryland has made nine inflation increases to reimbursement rates for publicly-funded behavioral health services, for a total of 19.9%. Over the same period of time, CPI inflation has cumulatively grown 61%.

In inflation-adjusted dollars, the purchasing power of community behavioral health providers has shrunk by 37% in the last two decades, while demand and need for treatment has increased.

Every year, costs rise. Behavioral health providers face rising rent, health premiums, equipment costs and staff salaries. Providers also face unfunded mandates to purchase expensive electronic health records but, unlike most other sectors of healthcare, were excluded from federal incentive funds.

***Provider Example:** To absorb this wage (and not increase – fair or not - the 20% of staff who have been here a long time) would take about \$765,000.*

Between FY20 & FY24, that could be accomplished if the mental health reimbursement rates increase 4% per year. bill if funding was guaranteed to increase accordingly. This is 1% above the HOPE Act rate increases for FY21 & FY22. We could get there if the 4% increase continued thru FY23 & FY24.

Request that you SUPPORT if Funding Allocated: PASSED 3/28/19

HB 508 / SB 577, Alcoholic Beverages - Prohibited Acts - Defense to Prosecution for Sale to Underage Individuals

Affords “prima facie evidence of innocence and a defense to a prosecution for serving alcoholic beverages to an underage individual” by authorizing the “reliance by an establishment or a seller on the results of an electronic identification scanner.”

We believe the bill will lead to an unintended increase in the sale of alcohol to minors, without consequences for sellers.

Request that you OPPOSE HB 508 / SB 577: PENDING

HB 142, Family Law - Opioid-Exposed Newborns and Parents Addicted to Opioids - Mobile Application (I'm Alive Today App)

Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a mobile application to be used by parents who have been assessed to have opioid addictions that could result in harm or potential harm to a child.

While well-intentioned, DSS Directors feel the complicated process of trying to get parents to download and use the app, and then investigate all daily failures to check in via the app, will pull time, attention, and resources away from their direct service work with these families at a time when local DSS offices are already underfunded and understaffed.

Request that you OPPOSE HB 142: WITHDRAWN 3/15/19