



MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COALITION

# 2020 KEEP THE DOOR OPEN AGENDA

Maryland has taken several critical steps in recent years to address longstanding and pervasive barriers to treatment for children and adults with mental health and substance use disorders. We are making progress, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Overdose deaths increased in 2018 for the eighth year in a row, reaching an all-time high of 2,406. And while these deaths decreased slightly during the first six months of 2019, 1,182 Marylanders still lost their lives to overdose during that time. Maryland suicides have increased dramatically since 1999, and demand for mental health and substance use treatment has risen steadily since 2008, with over 300,000 Maryland children and adults currently using and depending on the state's public behavioral health system.

The Coalition will continue working in 2020 to ensure that every Marylander has access to high quality behavioral health treatment. We will fight for a system that leaves no one behind, including traditionally marginalized and underserved communities such as older adults, children and youth, Marylanders with commercial insurance, incarcerated individuals, veterans, culturally-diverse and non-English speaking populations, and those in rural communities.

**Our priorities for 2020 are:**

## IMPROVE ACCESS AND COORDINATION FOR QUALITY COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Marylanders with commercial insurance still struggle to access timely in-network behavioral health care, and many Medicaid consumers are unable to take advantage of everything our nationally recognized public behavioral health system has to offer, including integrated models like certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHC). Strict enforcement of behavioral health parity laws and modest enhancements to Maryland's public behavioral health system can improve treatment quality and outcomes for the public. **The state must adopt the Coalition's multi-pronged platform for enhancing Maryland's public behavioral health system and enact policies to ensure the appropriate enforcement of federal and state parity laws.**

THE MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COALITION IS A DIVERSE MIX OF MORE THAN FIFTY NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS RECEIVE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT CARE.

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[WWW.KEEPTHEDOOROPENMD.ORG](http://WWW.KEEPTHEDOOROPENMD.ORG)

## FULLY FUND PRIOR KEEP THE DOOR OPEN AND MINIMUM WAGE BUDGET COMMITMENTS

Long-overdue multi-year behavioral health provider rate increases were included in the HOPE Act of 2017 and minimum wage legislation in 2019. In 2018, the legislature enacted multi-year funding initiatives to expand crisis response services and improve the delivery of behavioral health care in primary care settings. **We must keep these prior budget commitments in FY 2021 to prevent a reduction in access to community mental health and substance use disorder services.**

## INCREASE SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORTS TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES

The Kirwan Commission issued a report in January 2019 that included a comprehensive set of strategies for enhancing school-based behavioral health services, which have been shown to improve student health and educational outcomes. **In addressing the full range of Kirwan recommendations, the legislature must prioritize the adoption of, and ensure adequate funding for, those related to school behavioral health.**

## EXPAND ACCESS TO CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES, OVERDOSE, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

An inability to access quality mental health and substance use disorder services in the community is forcing more Marylanders into costly emergency departments or discouraging them from seeking care at all. This crisis in access is tied to an exponential increase in the number of Marylanders lost to suicide, unintentional overdose and other preventable deaths. **We must prioritize the development of a statewide comprehensive crisis response system and increase the availability of harm reduction interventions.**



The Behavioral Health Coalition benefits from the technical expertise, institutional knowledge, and grassroots supports of its member organizations.

We use advocacy and public awareness to increase the power of the behavioral health community. Our unified voice is stronger than our individual organizations. We fight for critical funding for providers, patients, clinics, and hospitals to ensure Marylanders get the mental health and substance use disorder services they need to be safe and healthy.

## CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS

Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
Disability Rights Maryland  
Healthy Harford/Healthy Cecil  
Legal Action Center  
Maryland Coalition of Families  
Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging  
Mental Health Association of Frederick County  
Mental Health Association of Maryland  
Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore  
NAMI Maryland  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Maryland

## PEER-RUN ORGANIZATIONS

Chesapeake Voyagers  
On Our Own of Maryland

## HEALTH SYSTEMS

Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health & Wellness Services  
Behavioral Health System Baltimore  
Good Samaritan Hospital Division of Psychiatry  
Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Sheppard Pratt Health System

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Alzheimer's Association of Greater Maryland  
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate  
Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland  
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland  
Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence  
Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities  
Maryland Association for Partial Hospital and Intensive Outpatient Programs  
Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth  
Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition  
Maryland & DC Society of Addiction Medicine  
Maryland Hospital Association  
Maryland Nonprofits  
Maryland Nurses Association  
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Maryland Psychiatric Society  
Maryland Psychological Association  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
National Association of Social Workers, Maryland

## MARYLAND PROVIDERS

Arundel Lodge  
Baltimore Crisis Response  
Catholic Charities  
Center for Addiction Medicine  
Cornerstone Montgomery  
EveryMind  
Family and Children's Services  
Family Services, Inc.  
Harford-Belair Community Mental Health Center  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Hudson Health  
IBR/REACH Health Services  
Jewish Community Services  
Key Point Health Services  
Pro Bono Counseling Project  
Prologue  
Way Station