

2018 Policy Priorities



Behavioral Health System
Baltimore

Promoting and Supporting Behavioral Health and Wellness



Prevention and Early Intervention

BHSB will promote policies and practices that strengthen and expand prevention and early interventions to reduce risk, mitigate the impact of trauma and toxic stress, increase community resilience, and improve behavioral health and wellness.

Policy Recommendations

- Ensure that Maryland's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) collects Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) module data starting in 2020
- Increase opportunities for community input into alcohol outlet locations and practices to reduce violence and create healthier communities

Treatment and Recovery Services

BHSB will advance policies, programs and practices that promote access to comprehensive, integrated community treatment and a full array of support services for people with mental illness and substance use disorders across the lifespan.

Policy Recommendations

- Advance the development of a comprehensive, integrated crisis response system to ensure 24/7 immediate access to a full continuum of crisis behavioral health services
- Ensure Maryland Medicaid has an appropriate rate structure for Targeted Case Management (TCM) to better support service delivery for persons with mental illness and substance use disorders
- Increase resources through Maryland Medicaid for youth Mental Health Case Management (formerly known as Targeted Case Management) to ensure the needs of youth and families impacted by mental illness are effectively supported
- Ensure Maryland Medicaid covers peer support services to assist individuals and their families with recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders





Criminal Justice System

BHSB will identify and promote criminal justice system reforms that redirect spending for corrections toward the behavioral health system and support interventions to improve access to treatment and recovery support services.

Policy Recommendations

- Invest in programs that divert persons in need of behavioral health services from the criminal justice system into community-based treatment and supports. Key diversion activities include:
 - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program
 - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Teams (CRTs) that include a police officer and behavioral health clinician
- Expand re-entry services to assist returning citizens with mental illness and substance use disorders in their transition from incarceration to the community

Behavioral Health System Infrastructure

BHSB will advocate for policies and reforms that promote parity and strengthen the behavioral health system infrastructure and workforce.

Policy Recommendations

- Ensure reimbursement rate increases for community-based behavioral health providers established through the HOPE Act (HB1329) are included in the State's FY 2019 budget
- Build upon the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) model to support system planning and management and continue progress toward integration of behavioral health services in a more accountable system of care
- Establish a task-force to examine the ability of the current behavioral health workforce to meet the needs for service and make recommendations for how to improve workforce capacity





Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Behavioral Health System Baltimore is a nonprofit organization that provides leadership in advancing behavioral health and wellness. We advocate for and help guide innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery to help build healthier individuals, stronger families and safer communities.

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