



Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition

Working to Keep the Door Open for Marylanders in Need



The Behavioral Health Coalition is a diverse mix of more than 50 non-governmental organizations working together to ensure individuals living with mental health and substance use disorders have high quality and accessible services for their needs.

Every year, more than 1 in 5 Marylanders will be affected by a behavioral health disorder. Every Marylander should have access to the behavioral health services they need to live a safe and fulfilling life.

Recent Progress

Our Keep the Door Open campaign was formed in 2015 to strengthen the Coalition's advocacy efforts on state policy. Since that time, we have made important gains to increase access to behavioral health:



Reversed proposed budget cuts and secured long-overdue funding for community behavioral health providers as part of the HOPE Act of 2017



Expanded telehealth services to address clinical workforce shortages and engage hard-to-reach populations



Established the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program to support local crisis services



Improved children's behavioral health data collection to enhance treatment services for Maryland youth

More Work Needed

Demand for services continues to grow - more than 260,000 Maryland children and adults depend on our public behavioral health system. With opioid deaths at an all-time high in 2017 and increasing suicide rates, Marylanders lives depend on better access to treatment. Therefore, in the coming year, the Coalition will focus on:

- Supporting our behavioral health workforce by standing firm on the Hope Act commitment for community health provider reimbursement rates
- Improving our children's system of care and expanding school-based behavioral health services
- Expanding access to medication-assisted treatment and other substance use treatment options
- Modernizing Maryland's behavioral health system to ensure better accountability and patient outcomes

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.



More than 50 members strong

Consumer Organizations

- Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
- Baltimore Jewish Council
- Disability Rights Maryland
- Healthy Harford
- 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 Talbot County
- NAMI Maryland
- NAMI Metro Baltimore
- National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Maryland

Peer-run Organization

- Chesapeake Voyagers
- On Our Own of Maryland

Professional Associations

- 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 Behavioral Health Network
- 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
- National Association of Social Workers, Maryland

Providers

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

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