



RESTORE THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUDGET!

We must Keep the Door Open for Marylanders who need help.

Years of damaging budget cuts have left behavioral health service providers unprepared to meet the growing needs of Marylanders who need access to mental health and substance use disorder services.

Demand for services is steadily increasing, with the number of Marylanders using our public mental health system increasing 65% since the “Great Recession.”

Governor Hogan has unveiled a new program to fight heroin addiction; meanwhile there is **no additional funding** for enhanced substance use disorder treatment.

More than 1 million Marylanders live with a mental health issue or substance use disorder.

In fact, Maryland’s behavioral health budget has been **cut three times** since January:

- On January 7, the Board of Public Works approved the outgoing Administration’s proposal to reduce the fiscal year 2015 mental health service rate increase by 2 percent.
- The Board also approved Governor O’Malley’s recommendation for a 13 percent cut to Medicaid physician rates effective April 1, 2015 and Governor Hogan’s budget extends this reduction through fiscal year 2016.
- The fiscal year 2016 budget cuts community mental health provider rates by 2 percent and returns them to fiscal year 2014 levels.

According to legislative budget analysts, the cuts total a **\$23 million reduction** to the behavioral health care budget. They reduce services, threaten the health of vulnerable Marylanders and will be more costly in the long term. We cannot keep shutting the door on our citizens. We must restore this essential funding.

Behavioral Health is a good investment – treatment works, and will help prevent more costly emergency room services or crisis intervention. In a tight budget, we must make smart choices.

Keep the Door Open, Maryland. Help restore the behavioral health budget so that our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers can get the mental health and substance use disorder care they need.

THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COALITION is a diverse mix of non-governmental organizations working together to ensure individuals affected by mental health and substance use disorders have high quality and accessible services for their needs. Find out more at our website: www.keepthedooropenmd.org.