



Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition 2018 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition respectfully requests that you respond to the questions below on issues related to mental health and substance use disorders. The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition is a diverse mix of nonprofit organizations working to ensure that individuals with mental health and substance use disorders have access to quality care and services that meet their needs.

To educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis, complete candidate responses will be published verbatim on the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition website (<http://keepthEDOORopenMD.org/>) on October 16, 2018. To meet our publication deadline, your responses must be received no later than October 12, 2018. If you do not respond, the publication will state Did Not Respond.

Questions and responses will be used in compliance with all IRS rules for 501(c)(3) organizations.

Please respond to each question in 200 words or less, and submit completed questionnaires to Dan Martin via email at dmartin@mhamd.org.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and for taking the opportunity to communicate your views on behavioral health issues and policy.

Candidate Name	Delores G. Kelley
Office Sought	MD Senate
District	10
Campaign Contact	candidate (My Manager died following the primary)
Campaign Contact Phone	410-521-2384
Campaign Contact Email	dkelley428@verizon.net

1. What would you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders?
A public Education campaign financed by the MD Dept of Health

2. What strategies would you employ to reduce overdose deaths and suicides?

A. Anti-drug education as part of school curriculums for grades 4- 12

B. Greater public availability of anecdotes, as well as training the general public in proper administration

3. What specific initiatives would you propose to better address the prevention, early intervention and treatment needs of children and youth living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders?

All children need baseline screenings by pediatricians, and all MD schools should have medical social workers to make indicated referrals.

4. Maryland's older adults are the fastest growing demographic with unmet mental health and substance use disorder needs. How would you address the behavioral health needs of this population?

There should be government-sponsored programs to reduce social isolation of both the elderly and any significant stressors of their caretakers.

5. What would you do to increase the availability of mental health and addiction providers in the state?

Since there is an overall shortage of such providers, Maryland should fund graduate education for these professional. in return for their commitment to serve under-served populations in Maryland for designated periods of time.

6. How would you ensure health insurance plans are in compliance with existing behavioral health parity laws and educate consumers about their rights to equitable mental health and addiction coverage?

In addition to public service announcements and billboards, there should be relevant and more comprehensive information on State of Maryland websites maintained by the Departments of Health, Human Services, Aging, and by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

7. What would you do to ensure that low income individuals with mental health and substance use disorders have access to safe, stable and affordable housing?

I would study best practices in other states, and vote to establish similar pilots in Maryland, which should be evaluated periodically. Once we know what is affordable and what works, we should institutionalize such programs and practices.

8. What strategies would you employ to address the overrepresentation of individuals with behavioral health needs in Maryland jails and prisons?

We need to fund good out-patient care for those behavioral health patients who are indigent, and we need mental health problem-solving courts. We should also honor any advanced directives that patients sign when they are not in crisis, so that if they have agreed in such directive to medical interventions that are workable for them, those directives would be honored during any subsequent mental health crisis that such patients experience.

9. Given the continuing rise in demand for mental health and substance use disorder services, what steps would you take to move Maryland toward a system with true on-demand access and comprehensive behavioral health crisis response services?

Maryland should enact annual budget amendments for such a purpose. It is inhumane and unnecessarily costly to do otherwise.