

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://keepthedoropenmd.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	Kathy Klausmeier
Office Sought	State Senate (Incumbent)
District	8
Campaign Contact	LeRoy Graefe (Campaign Manager)
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1. What would you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders?

I will continue to educate communities on the awareness programs currently available, and future programs as we continue to address mental health issues in the legislature.

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

Implement mental health first aid in our schools, and train all school personnel and volunteers on mental health first aid. I will seek to get more grant funding for project Aware, and I will continue to work with

other legislators on finding solutions to reducing overdoses and the heroin & opioid epidemic overall.

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?

We look forward to seeing the findings and recommendations of the Kirwan Commission in dealing with mental health and substance use disorders among our state's families. I hope they include school-based health initiatives and a fuller integration of mental health treatment in school.

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?

Streamline process among BHA, hospital care, and nursing home/assisted living center

Work with the Longterm Care Oversight Committee to address these issues and keep them in the discussions

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

Continue to advocate for the keep the door open act

Work on ways to increase the reimbursement rates of providers

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?

Keep an open line of communication between the insurance commission and advocates to discuss and enforce the parity laws

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 will work with your organization to see how best we can address this issue.

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

We should use the savings from the Justice Reinvestment Act funding behavioral health programs behind the wall.

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?

I will continue to work to get more crisis centers across our state.