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## Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition

### 2018 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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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](mailto: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.

<b>Candidate Name</b>	Lois A Jarman
<b>Office Sought</b>	State Delegate
<b>District</b>	4
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1. What would you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders?

More education about mental health issues, and visible role models who suffer from mental health issues. Faces need to be put with the disorders and awareness needs to be created of their existence.

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

Working closely with emergency response officials, community training on how to respond. Increase counseling services availability and awareness that the services exist.

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?

I would like to see funding for counseling and services for children with mental illness.

I would also like to see treatment before punitive measures for substance abusers.

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?

Again, I would look for funding for services for this population.

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

Improve education to students about careers in mental health services to increase the numbers of people entering the field.

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?

I am not sure about this but would seek input from those in the field.

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?

We need to look at funding sources to improve these services.

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

We need to look at sentencing laws to ensure those who need help get it without going to prison.

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?

We need to increase the numbers of people entering the field. A comprehensive long-range plan to do this should be created. Increasing school psychology professionals would also be beneficial.