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House Appropriations Committee

February 27, 2020

House Bill 152

MATOD opposition to BRFA Cut of Medicaid Provider Rates

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) is an opioid use disorder provider and advocacy organization comprised of the majority Maryland's 93 Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs), 7 Local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and several behavioral health advocacy agencies.

MATOD strongly opposes the BRFA recommended 2% Medicaid provider rate, in lieu of the FY 21 budgeted 4% rate increase mandated by HB166 and SB280 in 2019.

The need and importance of the 4% Behavioral Health provider increase can't be stressed enough. The difference that the full 4% increase will make can be measured in lives saved from the availability and delivery of professional behavioral health services. The full 4% provider rate increase will help substance use and mental health providers **Keep Their Doors Open**.

Funding the budgeted 4% increase is necessary for providers to retain high quality, experienced staff, as well as recruit and train new staff, in response to our communities' continuing increased needs.

Funding the budgeted 4% increase will help maintain and increase life-saving outpatient and inpatient substance use and mental health treatment services, behavioral health crisis services, stabilization and referral services, and overdose prevention and reversal services. Now is **not** the time to reduce the funding that providers desperately need to serve their communities.

While behavioral health providers are grateful for the small rate increases over the past few years, cost increases associated with providing high quality, evidence-based, accessible, available, licensed and accredited behavioral health services exceed these rate increases every year.

Marylanders suffering with addiction and mental health disorders deserve the best outcomes that treatment can offer – they and the provider community need and deserve the full 4% provider increase to be funded. This one decision will save countless Maryland lives.

MATOD requests the full funding of the budgeted 4% provider increase in the FY 21 budget, and **opposes the BRFA cut to 2% in HB 152.**

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.