



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 441

Title: Mental Health – Emergency Facilities List – Comprehensive Crisis Response Centers, Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Crisis Treatment Centers

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 441 – Mental Health – Emergency Facilities List – Comprehensive Crisis Response Centers, Crisis Stabilization Centers, and Crisis Treatment Centers*. This bill would require the Maryland Department of Health to include additional crisis centers in its list of emergency services.

Current law requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish and provide a list of emergency services on an annual basis to local health departments, court judges, sheriff's offices, police stations, and Secret Service offices in Maryland. The purpose of this is to ensure that individuals in mental health crisis, especially those that come into contact with the criminal justice system, are transferred to an appropriate setting for evaluation and treatment. Traditionally, the list has only included hospitals with emergency departments.

Over the past several years, Maryland has expanded the number, and availability, of community-based crisis services that divert individuals from emergency departments. With these programs continuing to grow across the state, it makes sense to provide an updated list of crisis services on a regular basis to local entities that come into contact with individuals in crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.