

PGCEX_FAV_SB453

Uploaded by: Alsobrooks, Angela

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 453 - Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

SPONSOR: Senators Pinsky, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2020

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 453 - Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services**, which requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific psychiatric rehabilitation services, therapeutic services, care coordination services, and home health aide services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder. The bill also requires the list to include services available to any child with a mental disorder who is either enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance and directs the BHA to establish a method by which an individual may request the list through the BHA website.

It can be overwhelming for anyone to find a health care provider who offers specific mental health services and accepts their health insurance. Parents of children with a mental disorder find themselves in the even more stressful position of navigating an opaque health care system for services and treatments they have never had to investigate before. Providing a singular list that can be searched for specific mental health services and that clarifies whether the provider accepts Medicaid or commercial health insurers will present parents an easy-to-use resource to help navigate finding the appropriate care for their children.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 453** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

MHAMD_FAV_SB0453

Uploaded by: ALTEMA, IRNANDE

Position: FAV

**Senate Bill 453 Behavioral Health Administration – Children with Mental Disorders –
List of Available Services**

Finance Committee

February 18, 2020

Position: SUPPORT

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use. We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 453.

SB 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of behavioral health services in select categories available to children with a mental health disorder.

Children and youth with behavioral health needs have limited treatment options, and thus requiring BHA to publish the services that are available to families would help them in search of appropriate care. Hosting a searchable site of the available services for children in need of a mental health or substance use supports in their county will help parents locate a program near their home. SB 453 will also help families know in advance if their health insurance covers the necessary behavioral health service sought for their children.

The number of children and youth accessing the Public Behavioral Health System between FY 15 to FY 17 increased, 62,659 and 68,838, respectively¹. The majority of the services utilized were “outpatient treatment services by individual practitioners and outpatient clinics, case management, and youth psychiatric rehabilitation services.”² Thus, the list of published services should be expanded to include other programs that care for children with specialized needs. BHA should also inform the public of where they can find services for children eligible for 1915 (i), residential treatment care, respite care, and substance use treatment programs. Without the inclusion of these additional services in the list published online, families will lack complete information on who and where they can go for behavioral health care.

SB 453 will ensure families know where they can find a licensed provider for a behavioral health service necessary for the wellbeing of the child. For this reason, **MHAMD supports this bill and urges a favorable report.**

¹ <https://mdpsych.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MSAR-11596-School-Safety-Subcabinet-Behavioral-Gap-Analysis-Report.pdf>

² *Id.*

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0453

Uploaded by: Byrne, Julia

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
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JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: **SB 453**

TITLE: Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

SPONSOR: Senator Pinsky

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 18, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 453 - Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services. This bill would require the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain and update a list of certain services available to a child in the State with a mental disorder.

Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration has proven to be an indispensable resource for children with mental disorders by providing psychiatric rehabilitation, care coordination, home health aide, and therapeutic services. These low-cost options are not only essential to the health and well-being of young residents in need of mental health assistance, but are life-changing for the families that lack the professional experience these programs provide.

By providing a consistently updated list of services available from the BHA, this legislation furthers the interests of Baltimore County by promoting accessibility to essential government services and provides further assistance to children with mental disorders.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 453. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.

CBH_FAV_SB453

Uploaded by: Doyle, Lori

Position: FAV



SB 453

Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders –

List of Available Services

Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH) is the professional organization for community-based programs offering outpatient mental health and substance use treatment, residential services, psychiatric rehabilitation, and crisis services. Our 65 members serve nearly three-quarters of the 290,000 adults and children using Maryland's public behavioral health system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in five children has a mental health disorder. Parents and other caregivers often struggle to find available services for their child, particularly if covered by commercial insurance. It is important to note that the list required by this bill would include both children on Medicaid and those with private insurance coverage. HB 374 is an important first step in helping ensure that Maryland's children in need of mental health services are connected with appropriate care.

We urge a favorable report on SB 453.

LCPCM_FAV_SB 453

Uploaded by: Faulkner, Rachael

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 453

Title: Behavioral Health Administration – Children with Mental Disorders – List of Available Services

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children with Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*. This bill would require the Behavioral Health Administration to maintain and updated list of services available to a child who has a mental disorder.

LCPCM strongly supports this bill as it would provide a directory of services to both children and their families, as well as mental health clinicians. This is especially important for licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs) who work in private practice and need to refer a child and their family to a community treatment program. Knowing which programs are currently available for children and youth in each region of the state can be very challenging. Even when a program is identified, knowing which insurance is accepted can be even more difficult. This process often requires considerable time providing care coordination in researching treatment options for families. As many independent and small group practices do not have support staff to provide this service, it falls to LCPCs, which then cuts into the time that could otherwise be used to provide mental health treatment services to others.

As Maryland continues to struggle with a shortage of mental health professionals, we need to adopt more efficient mechanisms to provide care including having up-to-date provider directories.

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.

MHA_FAV_SB 453

Uploaded by: Frazee, Brian

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 18, 2020

To: The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee

From: Brian Frazee, Vice President, Government Affairs, Maryland Hospital Association

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 453- Behavioral Health Administration- Children with Mental Disorders- List of Available Services

Dear Chairman Kelley:

On behalf of Maryland's 61 nonprofit hospitals and health systems, we thank you for the opportunity to submit support for House Bill 374- Behavioral Health Administration- Children with Mental Disorders- List of Available Services. Maryland's hospitals care for millions of people each year, treating an estimated 2.3 million in emergency departments alone. However, hospital care is only necessary for the most acute conditions, and maintaining health requires a robust system of community care, particularly for children who need community support to grow and thrive.

Over the past two years, hospitals, under the leadership of MHA, participated in two studies focused on discharge delays from hospital inpatient departments and emergency departments for patients with a behavioral health condition. For years, hospitals shared stories of patients stuck in an inpatient bed for months, and emergency departments for weeks past when it is medically necessary. One study found, on average, patients delayed in inpatient psychiatric units spend three additional weeks in a hospital past when they can be safely discharged to community care. The study of emergency departments found delays hit children particularly hard. Patients under 18 tended to have delays twice as long as those over 18.

Hospitals are committed to ensuring individuals can access the right level of care for their condition. In order to properly move patients through the system of care it is vital to have a "source of truth" for services available in the community, which HB 374 would provide. Since last year, MHA has engaged in a state led process spearheaded by the Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert Neall to study hard to place patients. The work group recommended supporting the infrastructure necessary to enable real-time capacity tracking of services available throughout the care continuum—specifically for children. This bill is the first step in developing that resource and improving health care for children with mental health needs.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable* report.

For more information, please contact:

Brian Frazee

Bfrazee@mhaonline.org

MdCSWC_Pam Kasemeyer_FAV_SB0453

Uploaded by: Kasemeyer, Pam

Position: FAV

MdCSWC

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 18, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 453 – *Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we **support** Senate Bill 453.

Senate Bill 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder in each of the following categories: (1) psychiatric rehabilitation services; (2) therapeutic services; (3) care coordination services; and (4) home health aide services. The list must include services available to any child who has a mental disorder and who is enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance coverage. BHA must establish a method by which a person may request the list through the BHA website and make the list available either through that method or through any other means.

Evidence demonstrates that mentally healthy children reach developmental and emotional milestones, including healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems, which results in a positive quality of life. Early diagnosis and appropriate services for children and their families can make a difference in the lives of children with mental disorders. Though BHA maintains a list of licensed providers and the services that each provider is licensed to provide, it does not track whether a licensed provider is enrolled in Medicaid or accepts commercial health insurance. Senate Bill 453 would help parents have access to essential mental health services for their child by providing key information relating to payment and reimbursement for such services.

As such, MdCSWC urges the Senate Finance Committee to give Senate Bill 453 a favorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000

Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work: www.gwscsw.org

Contacts: Coalition Chair: Judy Gallant, LCSW-C; email: jg708@columbia.edu; mobile (301) 717-1004

Legislative Consultant: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer, Schwartz, Metz & Wise PA, 20 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Email: pmetz@smwpa.com; mobile (410) 746-9003

LATE - DanielleLeClair_FAV_SB453

Uploaded by: LeClair, Danielle

Position: FAV

Testimony in Favor of SB 453 – Mental Health Services Access Information
Submitted by: Danielle LeClair, University Park, MD
Position: Support

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and fellow Finance Committee members – Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 453, which would greatly increase access to information about needed mental health treatment for children. I want to also thank the bill's sponsor, my state Senator, Paul Pinsky, and the bill's other sponsors, including Chairwoman Kelley, as well as Delegate Barron for his introduction of the companion bill in the House of Delegates.

My name is Danielle LeClair and my 12 year old daughter and I live in University Park, MD. I adopted my daughter as a single parent almost three years ago from the foster care system. She is a smart and kind girl who has made Honor Roll almost every quarter, is a great athlete, plays the trombone in the school band, and loves animals, especially dogs.

She also has a number of significant mental health issues, including PTSD, ODD, ADHD and others, from her time in extremely abusive birth and foster homes before I adopted her.

I'm not sure how familiar you are with the ACES score – it stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences, and is a measure of different types of abuse, neglect, and other types of childhood trauma. The higher the ACES score, the more likely a child will face significant health and other challenges in childhood and adulthood. The nine ACES include: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, mental illness of a family member, substance use by a parent, loss of a parent, witnessing domestic violence, and having an incarcerated parent. According to the CDC, a majority of children have zero or one of these adverse experiences. Only 12% of children have four or more. I've been told by a number of doctors, social workers, and therapists that my daughter has one of the highest ACES scores they've ever seen.

Let me give you a sense of what it's like to live with a child with significant mental health issues. One of my daughter's PTSD triggers is transitions. This can be as simple as going from the car to the house, because in the past, she constantly feared what would happen entering her birth or foster homes. Her brain and body still associate this transition with danger, so while I know she's safe coming into our home, she still doesn't fully register that.

Last month, we returned from a wonderful birthday trip on a Disney Cruise to the Bahamas followed by a trip to Disney World. Despite my daughter having a wonderful time, returning to home and her routine was a tough re-entry transition and the day after the trip, she had a bad PTSD episode. These happen literally in the blink of an eye. She goes from eating dinner and putting on her basketball shoes to being dysregulated and often aggressive. She got triggered when I said it was time to put on her coat for basketball. She bit me hard on my arm and wouldn't let go – if I hadn't been wearing a thick sweatshirt, I'd have likely needed stitches. I was able to get away from her into another room, but she followed me and punched me in the face. If you look closely, you can still see the bruise on my left cheek. My daughter has one of these PTSD episodes about once per month – sometimes more often – typically around triggering times like holidays. They are scary for me and for her, and once she is re-regulated and coherent

again, she feels tremendous shame and guilt. This is not a child who wants to hurt anyone; she just experienced and witnessed so much abuse that her brain and body sometimes disconnect and act on their own.

In addition to the violent PTSD episodes, my daughter struggles with severe debilitating anxiety because her brain often freezes up, literally rendering her incapacitated – usually laying on the floor in the fetal position unable to stand up. This is part of the “freeze” of the “flight, flight or freeze response” of victims of severe trauma. My daughter’s freezing typically happens in the mornings and evenings, which are transition times. Last year, her PTSD/anxiety was so bad that she was either late to school or missed the entire school day more than 30 times. Despite her school being well aware of the reason for the tardies/absences – in fact, her assistant principal actually came to our home one day and saw my daughter’s incapacitation first-hand - her school and PGCPs have actually threatened me with truancy court. I seriously doubt they’d do that if she missed school for cancer instead of PTSD.

I have done everything in my power to get my daughter the mental health services that she and I both desperately need so that she can heal from her significant trauma. She has seen a therapist weekly for the past 3 years that specializes in childhood trauma, she has an excellent psychiatrist who she sees monthly, and we have an incredible support network of friends and family. I have also enrolled my daughter in equine therapy, play therapy, and yoga to try to help her heal.

However, my daughter’s healing has a long way to go and we are in critical need of more help. Help that I cannot find.

This is why I am willing to share such personal information with you today in the hope that we will finally get the mental health care that my daughter and I desperately need.

One of the sources of in-home mental health care for children are Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs, or PRPs. I heard about their existence from a hospital staffer about a year ago and started Googling ones in or near Prince George’s County. I found a few PRPs, but they would only take children who only have Medicaid. My daughter, like all other current and former foster children, does have Medicaid. But our adoption agency required me to also put my daughter on my work health insurance, provided by my wonderful union employer, which disqualified us from all of the PRPs that I had found.

I need a trained mental health provider to come work with my daughter in our home. Ideally each morning to help her navigate the difficult transitions to get ready for school. I cannot just hire a regular babysitter for a child with PTSD. If my daughter was unable to go from her bedroom to the toilet to the shower to getting dressed because of a physical health issue, some home health agencies that serve children with physical conditions could help. However, none of those home health agencies help children who are incapacitated for mental health conditions. I have also called Beacon Health, the MD Medicaid provider, who finally told me after 6 phone calls – with hold times ranging from 30 minutes to 2 hours – that they provide no in-home mental health care.

We desperately need more services, including in-home mental health care. I have called my adoption agency, I have asked for help from the PG County Local Care Team, I have called the PG County Crisis Center, I have asked PGCCPS, I have asked our therapist and psychiatrist, I have asked the 2 hospitals that my daughter has been admitted to, and many others, to find in-home services. Her most significant challenges are in our home and that is where the key help is needed. But I have come up empty-handed.

SB 453 would go a long way to helping my family and many others by requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to provide information about critically needed mental health services for kids – including PRPs and home health aide services. The bill would also require that the list include services for children who have either Medicaid or private health insurance, so former foster kids who get adopted like my daughter are not penalized and denied access to treatment for also having private insurance. Because my daughter's mental health issues did not magically disappear once we formalized her adoption.

SB 453 would make sure the list of providers and services would be made available to families on the website, which is important because many families face the stigma of asking for help for mental health issues and need to search and ask in the privacy of our own homes. Currently, no such list of help exists – at least not publicly – which is a huge disservice to our family as well as to the service providers who want to work with clients/patients like us. As an exhausted parent, I need one-stop shopping vs spending hours, weeks, even months trying to find these specialized and critically needed services.

SB 453 is an extremely helpful, common-sense, budget-neutral way to help a lot of families like mine in our state.

I hope that you will move quickly to a vote in favor of this important bill and to support other legislation to help families struggling with mental health issues.

Thank you.

HEAU_FAV_SB0453

Uploaded by: O'Connor, Patricia

Position: FAV

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February 18, 2020

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Patricia F. O'Connor, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

Re: Senate Bill 453 (Behavioral Health Administration - Children with Mental Disorders - List of Available Services): Support

The Office of the Attorney General's Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) supports Senate Bill 453 because the bill would improve access to information about services available for children with mental disorders in Maryland. The bill would require the Behavioral Health Administration to maintain a list of services available to children with mental disorders who are enrolled in Medicaid or have health insurance coverage.

The services enumerated in the bill are psychiatric rehabilitation services; therapeutic services; care coordination services; and home health aide services. The list would be available upon request through the Behavioral Health Administration website. The HEAU receives inquiries relating to the availability of such services, and believes access to a list of services would benefit children requiring the services, and their parents or guardians.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to give the bill a favorable report.

cc: Senator Pinsky, Sponsor

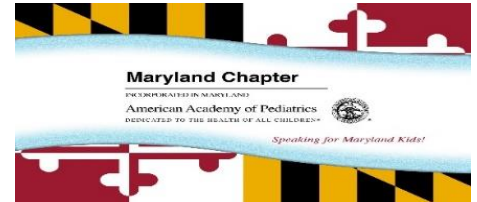
MedChi, MDAAP_Richard Tabuteau_FAV_SB0453

Uploaded by: Tabuteau, Richard

Position: FAV



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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 18, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 453 – *Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 453.

Senate Bill 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder in each of the following categories: (1) psychiatric rehabilitation services; (2) therapeutic services; (3) care coordination services; and (4) home health aide services. The list must include services available to any child who has a mental disorder and who is enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance coverage. BHA must establish a method by which a person may request the list through the BHA website and make the list available either through that method or through any other means.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “[m]ental disorders among children are described as serious changes in the way children typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions, which cause distress and problems getting through the day.”¹ Among the more common mental disorders that can be diagnosed in childhood are anxiety, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among others. Though BHA maintains a list of licensed providers and the services they provide, it does not track whether the provider is enrolled in Medicaid or accepts commercial health insurance. Childhood mental disorders can be treated and managed and parents should take advantage of all the resources available to guide their child towards success. Part of taking advantage of these resources, however, is having easily accessible information on available service as well as Medicaid and health insurance coverage.

As such, MedChi and MDAAP urge the Senate Finance Committee to give Senate Bill 453 a favorable report.

For more information call:

Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children’s Mental Health, <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/basics.html>.

MPS_FAV_SB453

Uploaded by: Tompsett, Tommy

Position: FAV



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – SB 453: Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a state medical organization whose physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, MPS works to ensure available, accessible and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branch of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland excluding the D.C. suburbs, MPS represents over 700 psychiatrists as well as physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS supports Senate Bill 453 (SB 453) as many children throughout Maryland suffer from mental illness and yet do not have knowledge of the resources that provide meaningful mental health services. As a result, Maryland children are all too often not receiving the mental health treatment they so desperately need and would benefit. The list of services created under SB 453 would provide information about integrated mental health services, including necessary home medical support. Today, no resource exists that provides this degree of detailed information.

Passage of SB 453, therefore, is a critical step to providing Maryland citizens with a resource on providers of needed mental health services. MPS, therefore, asks the committee to give SB 453 a favorable report.

If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Legislative Action Committee for the Maryland Psychiatric Society.

NCADD_FWA_SB 453

Uploaded by: Ciekot, Ann

Position: FWA



Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2020

Senate Bill 453

Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services

Support with Amendments

NCADD-Maryland whole heartedly supports Senate Bill 453. Finding the right services to meet our children’s behavioral health needs is not an easy task. Finding the most appropriate, affordable and accessible services and programs can take many hours, and sometimes ends with no good options. The proposal in SB 453 is to make sure the State maintains a list of services and updates it regularly is not difficult to execute and essential to save lives.

In the 21st century, it should take no more than a few minutes to get online, search for services in a geographic area needed that are targeted to the appropriate age group, and find a list of programs and services to contact. This is important for any kind of service we may be seeking for our children, let along mental health or substance use disorder services. The amendments we seek include:

- 1) Making this list available as an online directory, searchable by geography, level of care, and age range served;
- 2) Including both mental health and substance use disorder services in the directory; and
- 3) Requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to keep the list constantly updated, with accurate information about what insurances the programs accept (public and private).

People cannot get help, get well, and maintain recovery if they can’t even figure out where to start. NCADD-Maryland is aware of the 2-1-1 resource that includes an online directory. Those utilizing the website have found the information to be incomplete and not inclusive of information about the ages of people served. Perhaps the 2-1-1 system could be the foundation on which this directory is built. We need to make finding services as easy as possible. It’s smart public health policy.

We urge your support of SB 453 with amendments. NCADD-Maryland is committed to work with the sponsors, other supporters, and the Behavioral Health Administration on amendment language to achieve our common goal.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.

MCF_FWA_SB453

Uploaded by: Geddes, Ann

Position: FWA



**SB 453 – Behavioral Health Administration –
Children with Mental Disorders –
List of Available Services**

Committee: Finance

Date: February 18, 2020

POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for someone with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience as parents, caregivers and other loved ones, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to parents and caregivers of young people with mental health issues and to any loved one who cares for someone with a substance use or gambling issue.

MCF strongly supports HB 374.

In our work providing navigation services to parents and caregivers of children with mental health needs, it is commonplace that families don't know what services might be available to their child and family. This is one of the things that we do – help families to identify resources and services and access them. Our locally-based staff know what programs exist in their jurisdictions for specific populations of children, and help connect families to services. Not all families find their way to us, however, and sometimes even our staff are surprised to learn that there was an available service that they had no knowledge of.

For this reason HB 374 is critically important. Families desperately need complete information about available children's mental health services brought together in one place that is easily accessible. Without this, families remain uninformed and children go without needed services.

Such a list does not currently exist. There is a 2-1-1 online directory that lists certain behavioral health providers, but it is not searchable by age range and does not include many of the programs and services that are available for children.

MCF supports the amendments proposed by NCADD:

1. The list should be available as an online searchable directory
2. Substance use services should be included along with mental health services
3. The Behavioral Health Administration should keep the list constantly updated, with information about what insurances the programs accept (public and private)

It is important that the list be kept in such a way as to be searchable by service, with the providers listed for each service. Service categories may be psychiatric rehabilitation services, therapeutic services, and care coordination services, as are written in the bill. It should be noted, however, that there are other services available to children and families, including services available through the 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment, residential treatment centers, and respite services. It would be helpful if the Behavioral Health Administration included these services in any list they develop.

We urge a favorable report on SB 453 with amendments.

Contact: Ann Geddes
Director of Public Policy
The Maryland Coalition of Families
10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 234
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MDH_INFO_SB453

Uploaded by: Ye, Webster

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services – Letter of Information with Amendment

Dear Chair Kelley and committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services – Letter of Information. SB 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of specific services that are available to a child who has a mental disorder and is enrolled in Medicaid or has commercial health insurance.

The Department respectfully suggests that the Committee consider the following actions:

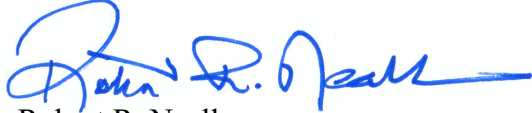
1. Assign this bill to the appropriate subcommittee in order to more fully develop this bill in conjunction with other bill concepts to form a committee bill on this topic; or
2. Bring together all of the various involved stakeholders, either in subcommittee, session workgroup, or interim informal workgroup, to work out the process to gather up-to-date data on all of the mental health services available from different payers and providers.

The Department believes that SB 453 would require BHA to procure or build a partially duplicative data system in order to collect the full list of service providers envisioned by this bill, since the Department already maintains a list of behavioral health providers who serve participants in the Medicaid program.

Should the Committee move forward with this bill, the Department requests that it adopt the following amendment to the bill, which would strike BHA and replace it with “the Department,” so as to maximize operational flexibility.

If you would have additional questions, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs,
Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Neall
Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 453
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1:

On page 2 in line 1, and on page 2 in lines 12 and 15, in each instance strike
“ADMINISTRATION” and replace with “DEPARTMENT”.