



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 332

Our first responders encounter individuals in crisis, be it opioid addiction or mental health problems, on a daily basis.

Currently, the Maryland Health Department is required to provide a list of emergency facilities to a number of agencies where individuals can be taken for treatment.

The agencies that receive this list are:

- Judges of Courts;
- Sheriff's Offices;
- Police Stations; and
- Secret Service Offices in the State.

Crisis response centers are not explicitly listed in statute as resources MDH must give to these agencies. As a result, these agencies only receive the information for Emergency Departments.

Individuals in crisis often languish in Emergency Departments because they are not designed to treat the unique needs of those struggling with mental health or substance abuse disorders.

This bill adds the following centers to statute:

- Comprehensive Crisis Response Centers
- Crisis Stabilization Centers
- Crisis Treatment Centers
- Outpatient Mental Health Clinics

This bill also expands the recipients of the list to local health and behavioral health authorities.

These centers do specialize in substance abuse and mental health treatments and are much better environments for individuals who are struggling.

This bill does not change where individuals in crisis can be taken for care, but merely ensures that these centers are included on the list provided by the Health Department and to our first responders.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for a favorable report on HB 332.