

SB003 (Community Letter).docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FAV

February 01, 2022

Neighbors of District 41
Community Support for SB003

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We, community leaders in the 41st Legislative District, support Senate Bill 3/House Bill 297 (Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care - Safety Plans), which are sponsored by Senator Jill P. Carter and Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg, respectively. This legislation builds upon Senate Bill 96 of last year's session, which required the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt regulations requiring residential facilities to establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of individuals served by those programs and their surrounding communities.

SB 3 and HB 297 would impose that requirement on community facilities of the Juvenile Services Administration and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. In recent years, violence has riddled local youth facilities, putting the safety of both the children and our communities in jeopardy. Juvenile Services has made substantial investments in rehabilitation efforts, including a revamped education program, but there is more work to do. With crime on the rise and the capacity of facilities dwindling, we should ensure the security of all parties.¹

The Attorney General's Office has recommended increased oversight in juvenile facilities. In addition to recommending modernized prevention methods, the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit has decided to close four facilities, in part because of the lack of protection.² A mandated safety plan will better inform the

1

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/12/17/juvenile-services-appoints-first-educational-program-superintendent/>

2

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-cr-juvenile-detentions-proposed-closures-20211117-smc7qmcxjndgdawa5pewsfivs-story.html>

<https://foxbaltimore.com/features/operation-crime-justice/violence-inside-baltimores-juvenile-detention-center>

actions of staff, some of whose inactions have enabled this violence and others who have violated the sanctity of children.³

As such we, the below signed neighborhood leaders, urge the Senate Finance Committee to support SB 03 and the Health and Government Operations Committee to support HB 297.

Respectfully Signed,

Cynthia Shaw, Lyndhurst Community Association, President
Arnold G. Foster, Jr., Ashburton Area Association, President
Caren Cutler, Cross Country Improvement Association, Secretary
Yeshiyah B. Israel, Pimlico Community Association, President
Deborah Colvin, President Edgewood Neighborhood Association

³ <https://statesattorney.us/former-victor-cullen-center-employee-facing-sex-abuse-of-a-minor-charges/>
<https://foxbaltimore.com/features/operation-crime-justice/violence-inside-baltimores-juvenile-detention-center>

Testimony_JPC_SB0003_LR0501.pdf

Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB3 - Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health,
and Health Care - Safety Plans
Before the Senate Finance Committee
On February 3, 2022**

**Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Esteemed Members of the
Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding Senate Bill 3. This bill is an important measure to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our community. In 2021, both houses unanimously passed Senate Bill 96 requiring all “behavioral health program[s] establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of the individuals served.” This bill was a recognition that having a detailed and documented plan was essential to ensuring the wellbeing of all those being served.

Senate Bill 3 simply ensures that those plans will be up-to-date, relevant, and regularly improved in order to keep up with best practices. It also expands the provision to residential centers and group homes that serve juveniles and persons with disabilities.

My intention with this bill is to improve the relationship between the neighborhood and facility residents. We know that the most effective path to rehabilitation is reintegration. This bill will help erase the stigma associated with child offenders and work to re-establish comroderity in our communities, to the benefit of all people.



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

By requiring various organizations serving vulnerable individuals to reevaluate their safety protocols at least every 5 years, this bill holds applicable organizations to similar standards set by the federal government. Senate Bill 3 will therefore protect the safety of vulnerable individuals without imposing excessive or unreasonable administrative demands on the centers providing the services.

A number of neighborhood presidents have signed onto a letter expressing their support of this bill. With their urging in mind, I ask this committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 3. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill P. Carter

Testimony In Support of SB 3 - HB 297 - Finance -

Uploaded by: Rich Ceruolo

Position: FAV



February 1, 2022

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of SB 3 / HB 297: Facilities – Disabilities, Juvenile, Behavioral Health and Health Care – Safety Plans

Members of the Maryland Senate Finance Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1300 members and fully support revising the state’s education regulations around developing and implementing safety plans for a variety of service settings and provider settings for individuals with disabilities and behavioral health issues.

Many of the children that we represent need the very vital services provided by these professionals and service providers in order to improve health, improve their access to the world, build skills sets as well as life skills areas. Too often children with disabilities have their services cut, curtailed or underfunded. As part of Maryland’s new Blueprint Education Law, our kids with disabilities should have all that they need to be successful in school and in life. And the process of implementing the Blueprint for our kids should include an improvement within the safety planning for these service provider environments.

We trust that these revisions to the state laws will change and help to further support all Maryland students. The future success and health of all of our students depends on many necessary improvements and supports being in place, during these unusual times, as we begin the long tasks related to implementing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and improving the lives of all our kids. Thank you all for supporting the education, health, safety and wellbeing of all students, especially those with disabilities.

Please support Senate Bill 3 / House Bill 297 and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | richceruolo@gmail.com
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta)|
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>

SB003_The Arc Maryland_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Ande Kolp

Position: FWA



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Senate Finance Committee
SB 003: Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care - Safety Plans
Position: Support With Amendment
February 3, 2022

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Health and safety are critical components of a person's ability to live a meaningful and inclusive life in the community. Many of our family members rely on DDA-licensed community service providers (IDD providers) for community services and supports for their loved ones. These organizations are regulated with oversight from the Office of Health Care Quality and they are currently required to have up-to-date Emergency Plans as a condition of licensure.

COMAR 10.22.02.10(A)(1) and (B) require IDD providers to document how the health and safety needs of every individual they support are being met. The regulations require that licensees have a detailed plan in place that would ensure safety of individuals in the event of an emergency and disaster. Segments of the current regulation are here:

10.22.02.10

.10 Policies and Procedures.

A. A licensee shall **develop and adopt written policies and procedures for ensuring:**

(1) **That each individual's health and safety needs, as identified in the individual plan (IP), are being met;**

(2) Fundamental rights in accordance with Health-General Article, §7-1002, Annotated Code of Maryland;

...

B. A licensed community residential service provider offering services in alternative living units or group homes **shall develop an emergency plan for all types of emergencies and disasters** that shall include:

(1) Procedures that will be followed before, during, and after an emergency to address the following:

(a) The evacuation, transportation, or 72 hour shelter-in-place of individuals and staff served;

(b) Holding an annual practice drill coordinated with local emergency planners for sheltering in place or evacuating;

(c) Preparing an after action report and improvement plan after drills that evaluates the plan and takes corrective actions;

(d) Ensuring that individuals served and staff have identification with current health, contact, and other important information that is immediately accessible in the event of evacuation;

(e) The role of the resident, family member, or legal representative in the event of evacuation;



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- (f) Arranging for medical needs and other accommodations for individuals served and staff at alternative facilities or shelters; and
 - (g) Establishing a communication protocol among all appropriate parties that includes redundant communication means;
- (2) The notification to families, staff, and the respective DDA regional office (licensing authority) regarding the action that will be taken concerning the safety and well-being of the individuals served;
- (3) The staff coverage, organization, and assignment of responsibilities that includes:
- (a) Planning staff coverage needs for ongoing shelter in place or evacuations;
 - (b) Identifying staff members available to report for work or remain during extended periods; and
 - (c) Establishing staff notification and recall contingency plans and procedures;
- (4) The continuity of operations, including, but not limited to, redundant communications systems, preservation of records and electronic data, the procurement of essential goods, equipment, and services, plans to secure vacated facilities, and the relocation to alternate facilities;
- (5) Procedures to:
- (a) Backup and electronically store off-site, appropriate records and data of consumers and staff and facility documents, for access under emergency conditions;
 - (b) Ensure access to an electronic copy of the emergency plans when requested by local, State, or federal emergency management organizations;
- (6) Provisions to ensure that the facility's emergency and disaster plans are shared with local emergency management organizations for the purpose of coordinating local emergency planning; and
- (7) An executive summary of the evacuation procedures that shall be provided to the family member of a resident on request.

As we believe the intent of the bill is already met through current regulation for IDD providers, we respectfully request that section §7-610 on pages 2-3 of the bill be amended to reflect this. Possible amendment language could be:

“The Department may authorize a private group home to satisfy the safety plan requirement under subsection (a)(1) of this section by implementing a safety or emergency plan established for another purpose.”

Thank you for considering this request for friendly amendment of SB003 (and its companion bill in the House.)

For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director of The Arc Maryland
akolp@thearcmd.org

SB 3_MACS_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Kallins

Position: FWA

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Senate Finance Committee SB 3: Facilities – Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health, and Health Care – Safety Plans Position: Support With Amendment

February 3, 2022

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a nonprofit association of over 100 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

We share the sponsor's interest in ensuring the safety of people residing in private group homes. Health and safety is central to the core mission of enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live meaningful, inclusive lives in their communities. DDA-licensed community residential service providers are highly regulated in this area as part of the regular licensing process, including requirements under [COMAR 10.22.02.10\(A\)\(1\) and \(B\)](#) that mandate that IDD group home providers document how the health and safety needs of every individual they support are being met, as well as the requirement that licensees have a detailed plan in place for an array of emergencies and disasters.

We therefore respectfully request that section §7-610 on pages 2-3 of the bill be amended to include:

“The Department may authorize a private group home to satisfy the safety plan requirement under subsection (a)(1) of this section by implementing a safety or emergency plan established for another purpose.”

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Kallins

