



## **Maryland Addiction Directors Council**

### **House Bill 48 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion**

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 7, 2023

#### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Maryland Addiction Directors Council represents SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential providers in Maryland. MADC members provide over 1,200 residential beds across the State and advocate for quality SUD and Dual Recovery outpatient and residential treatment.

MADC supports HB 48, which will improve the quality of behavioral health care delivered in primary care settings for Maryland Medicaid recipients by expanding their access to the proven Collaborative Care Model (CoCM).

CoCM is a validated, patient-centered, evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health care in primary care settings, which is where most people with mild to moderate behavioral health conditions first seek care. CoCM has been validated in over 80 randomized controlled trials and shown to improve health outcomes and save money, mostly via a reduction in unnecessary hospitalization and higher intensity levels of care.

Commercial health insurers in Maryland and Medicare are already reimbursing providers for delivering this model. An ongoing CoCM pilot in the Maryland Medicaid program has demonstrated “clinically significant improvement” in depression and anxiety symptoms for more than 65 percent of participants. It is time to end the pilot and join the 20+ other states that are providing CoCM broadly to their Medicaid recipients.

MADC believes CoCM provides an important, evidence-based source of treatment for Maryland Medicaid clients. The Covid pandemic saw a significant increase in the need for behavioral health treatment while drug overdose continues to claim the lives of Marylanders. All avenues to integrated treatment should be mobilized to provide treatment and save lives.

This bill will improve behavioral health outcomes, save money, and keep people out of crisis.

**For these reasons, Maryland Addiction Directors Council urges this committee to pass HB 48.**