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February 7, 2023

To: The House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Adventist HealthCare

Re: HB48 Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services –
Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion

POSITION: SUPPORT

Adventist HealthCare operates the state’s largest clinically integrated network of community providers, including primary care practices, and is the second largest provider of behavioral health care in Maryland. We know firsthand the value of integrating behavioral health services with primary care and fully support permanently establishing the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) in Maryland.

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. The model uses a team-based approach to deliver (1) care coordination and management; (2) regular, systematic monitoring and treatment using a validated clinical rating scale; and (3) regular, systematic behavioral health caseload reviews and consultation for patients. 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.

Avoiding hospitalization will provide needed relief to Maryland’s network of inpatient behavioral health services. This system is strained meeting the current demand for services. Expanding access to care at an earlier stage to avoid acute, high intensity episodes supports patients and providers. Maryland insurers are already reimbursing providers for delivering this model and the Medicaid pilot 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.

This bill will improve behavioral health outcomes, save money, and keep people out of crisis. For these reasons Adventist HealthCare supports HB48 and encourages the committee to give a **favorable report**.

