



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ www.mota-members.com

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 48 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion
Hearing Date:	February 7, 2023
Position:	Favorable

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 48 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion*. This bill makes the Collaborative Care Model permanent in Maryland before the Pilot sunsets in 2024.

Occupational therapists address barriers that individuals with mental health conditions experience in the community by providing interventions that focus on enhancing existing skills; remediating or restoring skills; modifying or adapting the environment or activity; and preventing relapse. As such, both the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) include mental health services within the scope of practice for occupational therapists.¹

MOTA supports the Collaborative Care Model to provide much needed care coordination of physical and behavioral health services. Preliminary findings from 2021 indicate that patients enrolled in the program have shown clinically significant improvement despite the limited enrollment that was impacted by COVID-19. We look forward to seeing the full report later this year, but are encouraged by the preliminary findings and believe they warrant continuing the Collaborative Care Model in Maryland.

If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy – Certificate Renewal.

<https://www.nbcot.org/Certificants/Certification>

American Occupational Therapy Association – Occupational Therapy’s Role in Community Mental Health.

<https://www.aota.org/~media/Corporate/Files/AboutOT/Professionals/WhatIsOT/MH/Facts/Community-mentalhealth.pdf>