



DATE: January 30, 2024 **COMMITTEE:** House Finance
BILL NO: Senate Bill 212
BILL TITLE Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care
Treatment and Access – Alterations
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 212 Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 212 alters the membership of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council to include the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities or the Deputy Secretary’s designee.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger’s services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

Rationale:

The MCDD supports greater representation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities on councils across the state of Maryland and particularly on the Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council (the Council). The Council is charged with promoting and advocating for development of a coordinated, quality system of care that supports and fosters wellness, recovery, and resiliency, and health for individuals who have behavioral health disorders.

The work of the Council greatly impacts the lives of people with developmental disabilities as many individuals with developmental disabilities have co-occurring behavioral health conditions. It is estimated that about 33% of people with developmental disabilities are also diagnosed with a mental illness such as anxiety or depression¹ and many have challenging behavior.² Accordingly, the Council would benefit from a representative from a group that so frequently accesses behavioral health services.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 212.

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¹ Maria Quintero and Sarah Flick, *Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Developmental Disabilities*, Social Work Today 10(5), 6 (Sept. 2010), <https://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/092310p6.shtml>.

² D. L. Bowring, et al, *Prevalence of Challenging Behavior in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Correlates, and Association with Mental Health*, Current Developmental Disorders Reports, 6, 173-181 (Nov. 2019), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40474-019-00175-9>.