



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland State Board of Acupuncture
4201 Patterson Avenue, Third Floor
Baltimore, MD 21215

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 212 Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Board of Acupuncture (the “Board”) is submitting this Letter of Information for SB 212 Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access – Alterations.

The Board is pleased to learn of the Department of Health’s (the “Department”) intention to coordinate decision-making about the access to the oversight and quality of behavioral healthcare treatment in our State.

Collaboration between the Behavioral Health Advisory Council (the “Council”) and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access (the “Commission”) creates a well-rounded collective of subject matter experts and stakeholders, that will be well-positioned to design a comprehensive behavioral health services network for the diverse population of residents depending on the Maryland Medical Assistance Program for healthcare services.

The Board views this bill as an opportunity to optimize all the healthcare practice resources available under the Department’s umbrella and recommends the Council and Commission further its goals by:

1. Ensuring that Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine (A&EAM) treatment is a behavioral health reimbursable service; and
2. Including Licensed Acupuncturists in the deliberative body membership of the Council and/or Commission.

There is an ever-evolving body of evidentiary documentation that details positive health outcomes of A&EAM in the treatment of mental health maladies, including but not limited to ADHD, anxiety, depression, trauma, and the associated symptoms. A few resources are as follows:

4201 Patterson Avenue; Baltimore, MD 21215 Office (410)764-4766 Toll Free (800)530-2481 TTY (800)735-2258

Website: www.health.maryland.gov/bacc Email: mdh.acupucture@maryland.gov

- [Efficacy and Safety of Acupuncture on Childhood Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder](#)
- [Why Psychiatrists are Recommending Acupuncture to Their Patients](#)
- [The Tao of Trauma: A Practitioner's Guide for Integrating Five Element Theory and Trauma Treatment](#)

The Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 212 and is open to further discussion. I can be reached at (410)764-5925 or tiffany.smith-williams@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany L. Smith-Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, Executive Director
Maryland Board of Acupuncture

cc: file
Board Counsel
MD Acupuncture Society

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.