



CARROLL COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU, INC.

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Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee Support

February 26, 2025

HB 814- Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus.

Carroll County Youth Service Bureau supports HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus. HB 814 asks the Department of Juvenile Services to provide a Report outlining the Department's efforts to collaborate with a Local Governments in the funding and establishment of YSBs and collaborations between DJS and YSBs to prevent delinquency.

Youth Service Bureaus have been part of Maryland's strategy for over 40 years, and Carroll County for more than 50 years), to provide a network of prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The network of YSBs was designed to be community based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland's children, youth and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family's protective factors.

The Carroll County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB) is a multifaceted outpatient mental health treatment agency licensed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF), and certified by the Department of Juvenile Services. Treatment and prevention services are largely designed to support children, adolescents, and families, with adult services available as well. Treatment options include psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations, and home-based services through the Family Preservation, Assertive Community Treatment, and Mobile treatment programs, and many programs serving youth of all ages. Additionally, we offer five (5) evidence-based treatment programs.

The staff is composed of 1) Psychiatrists who provide psychiatric assessments and medication management, with our full-time psychiatrist serving as the Medical Director, 2) master's level social workers and professional counselors who specialize in child and family therapy, 3) case managers and 4) peer counselors.

CCYSB has developed a unique collaborative relationship with Carroll County Government and many Carroll County agencies (both public and private) to ensure the continuum of mental health services is available and accessible by all.

CCYSB, in partnership with Carroll County Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and Carroll County Local Management Board (LMB), provides behavioral health case management services for youth and their families at risk of involvement in Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services. Family Engagement Program staff assesses the youth and family's needs and facilitates linkages to services in the community, with the purpose of diverting these youth from involvement, or further involvement in DJS.

Since their creation, YSBs have had a deep connection with the Department of Juvenile Services, one that could be strengthened at this time when community services are in great need. YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system 2 years after ending counseling.

We respectfully ask you to Support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lynn Davis

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