



Committee: House Health Committee

Bill: HB 772 Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 25, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) **SUPPORT** HB 772 Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization – Establishment **WITH AMENDMENTS** to add a representative of LCPCM to the Workgroup and to broaden the scope to include independent outpatient settings in addition to certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHC) and outpatient mental health centers (OMHC).

States implementing the federal CCBHC model through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) often move toward prospective payment systems (PPS) for CCBHCs and OMHCs. That creates stable funding streams for CCBHCs and OMHCs, higher reimbursement floors, and greater administrative infrastructure support, but independent outpatient providers often remain on traditional fee schedules which can unintentionally shift workforce into CCBHCs, create inequitable reimbursement for equivalent services, and undermine private community-based capacity.

LCPCs provide much needed comprehensive mental health care and services to individuals in crisis just like CCBHCs and OMHCs. Some LCPCs may also work in these centers. Examining the rate setting and reimbursement methodology across the full spectrum of providers can serve to expand the number and improve access to care.

LCPCM respectfully requests the purpose of the workgroup specified in lines 13 – 16 on page 1 be expanded to include “INDEPENDENT OUTPATIENT PROVIDERS” and on page 2, following line 9, insert:

(7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LICENSED CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS OF MARYLAND DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

LCPCM urges the Committee to give HB 772 a FAVORABLE Report WITH AMENDMENTS as described above.

Please contact Andrea Mansfield at amansfield@maniscanning.com or (410) 562-1617 if we can provide additional information.