

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 374 (Delegate Barron, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Behavioral Health Administration - Children With Mental Disorders - List of Available Services

This bill requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of the specific services available to a child in the State who has a mental disorder in each of the following categories: (1) psychiatric rehabilitation services; (2) therapeutic services; (3) care coordination services; and (4) home health aide services. The list must include services available to any child who has a mental disorder and who is enrolled in Medicaid or has health insurance coverage. BHA must establish a method by which a person may request the list through the BHA website and make the list available either through that method or through any other means.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can likely be handled within existing budgeted resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The bill creates a new requirement for BHA to create and maintain a specific list for children with mental disorders.

For services available to any child who has a mental disorder and who is enrolled in Medicaid, Medicaid's Administrative Service Organization (ASO) maintains a directory

of all Medicaid providers of behavioral health services, including psychiatric rehabilitation services, therapeutic behavioral health services, and case management services. The website maintained by the ASO allows an enrollee to search for a behavioral health service by location or service type. Most insurance companies also have similar provider directories.

BHA currently maintains a list of licensed providers and the services that each provider is licensed to provide. However, BHA does not track if a licensed provider is enrolled in Medicaid or accepts commercial health insurance.

State Expenditures: Given that BHA already maintains a list of licensed providers and the services offered by each provider, BHA can create an updated list of specific services available and post it on the BHA website using existing budgeted resources. However, to the extent that the bill requires the list to note which providers accept Medicaid and private insurance, BHA expenditures increase. Specifically, BHA advises that to create a searchable database that could track all providers, the services each provider is licensed to provide, whether the provider is enrolled in Medicaid, and the types of commercial insurance accepted by providers, BHA expenditures increase by approximately \$150,000 on a one-time only basis in fiscal 2021.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 453 (Senator Pinsky, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2020
mr/jc

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