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Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

DATE: February 27, 2020
BILL NUMBER: HB 1382 - Children in Out-of-Home Placement - Placement in Medical Facilities
DJS POSITION: Letter of Information

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS or department) is providing information for HB 1382.

The Department of Juvenile Services is committed to partnering with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to ensure Maryland youth have access to a continuum of behavioral health supports that will meet their diverse needs.

DJS is currently engaged in efforts with our agency partners and community stakeholders to build upon the behavioral health continuum in Maryland. Specifically, for justice involved youth that crossover to other human service agencies, DJS is implementing the following strategies:

Crossover Youth Practice Model

DJS continues to promote strategies to develop a multi-systems approach to addressing the unique needs of justice and child welfare involved youth through implementation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM).

CYPM is a partnership with DJS, DHS, Georgetown University, and the Maryland Judiciary. This effort aims to better serve this unique population by removing barriers to cross-systems collaboration, reducing unnecessary system involvement, ensuring access to diverse set of supports and treatment interventions, and avoiding duplication in service provision.

After piloting in Montgomery County and Prince George's County, the CYPM is now in place in Western Maryland (Allegany, Washington and Frederick Counties), Central Maryland (Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties), and most recently launched in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Further, a CYPM toolkit will be launched in 2020 to lay the groundwork for a statewide rollout.

Multidisciplinary Case Planning, Intervention, and Review

DJS will continue to participate in multidisciplinary team meetings with other agencies and stakeholders to coordinate efforts, leverage resources, and jointly case plan and identify appropriate interventions to support youth. Additionally, DJS regularly engages with agency stakeholders to review difficult cases to better assess youth needs, service provisions, and gaps in the treatment-service continuum.

Explore Additional Placement Resources for Youth that have Highly Specialized Behavioral Needs

DJS has implemented a continuum of placement resources that provide a diverse array treatment services and supports at different security levels. DJS, in coordination with the licensing agency, is reviewing current placement resources to determine if available capacity could be re-purposed to accommodate youth that are connected to a human service agency, but also have juvenile justice system involvement. Re-purposing current treatment resources will provide additional placement options to ensure youth are able to access appropriate behavioral health support interventions in the least restrictive environment.

Increase Maryland's Shared Community Evidence Based Service Continuum

DJS is partnering with DHS to build-out the Evidence Based Service (EBS) continuum in Baltimore City and around the State. Evidence-based programs are designed to provide intensive level treatment for youth that are at risk of being placed out-of-home in either a DHS or DJS placement. Both agencies are working with the Innovations Institute at the University of Maryland to support current EBS services, identify needs to expand EBS services, and develop plans to sustain the valuable programs in our communities.

DJS is committed to identifying new resources to build upon Maryland's continuum of care, leveraging all current resources, and creating systems for meaningful multi-agency collaborations to improve youth and family outcomes.

