



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services – Letter of Information with Amendment

Dear Chair Kelley and committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services – Letter of Information. SB 453 requires the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of specific services that are available to a child who has a mental disorder and is enrolled in Medicaid or has commercial health insurance.

The Department respectfully suggests that the Committee consider the following actions:

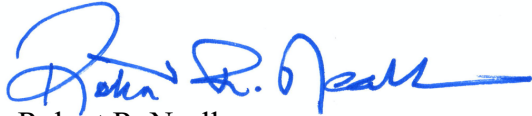
1. Assign this bill to the appropriate subcommittee in order to more fully develop this bill in conjunction with other bill concepts to form a committee bill on this topic; or
2. Bring together all of the various involved stakeholders, either in subcommittee, session workgroup, or interim informal workgroup, to work out the process to gather up-to-date data on all of the mental health services available from different payers and providers.

The Department believes that SB 453 would require BHA to procure or build a partially duplicative data system in order to collect the full list of service providers envisioned by this bill, since the Department already maintains a list of behavioral health providers who serve participants in the Medicaid program.

Should the Committee move forward with this bill, the Department requests that it adopt the following amendment to the bill, which would strike BHA and replace it with “the Department,” so as to maximize operational flexibility.

If you would have additional questions, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs,
Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Neall
Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 453
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1:

On page 2 in line 1, and on page 2 in lines 12 and 15, in each instance strike
“ADMINISTRATION” and replace with “DEPARTMENT”.