



Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 453
Title: Behavioral Health Administration – Children with Mental Disorders – List of Available Services
Hearing Date: February 18, 2020
Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 453 – Behavioral Health Administration – Children with Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*. This bill would require the Behavioral Health Administration to maintain and updated list of services available to a child who has a mental disorder.

LCPCM strongly supports this bill as it would provide a directory of services to both children and their families, as well as mental health clinicians. This is especially important for licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs) who work in private practice and need to refer a child and their family to a community treatment program. Knowing which programs are currently available for children and youth in each region of the state can be very challenging. Even when a program is identified, knowing which insurance is accepted can be even more difficult. This process often requires considerable time providing care coordination in researching treatment options for families. As many independent and small group practices do not have support staff to provide this service, it falls to LCPCs, which then cuts into the time that could otherwise be used to provide mental health treatment services to others.

As Maryland continues to struggle with a shortage of mental health professionals, we need to adopt more efficient mechanisms to provide care including having up-to-date provider directories.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.