

MdCSWC

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

The MdCSWC, sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland.

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

FROM: Judith Gallant, LCSW-C, Chair, Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition

DATE: February 18, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 453 – *Behavioral Health Administration – Children With Mental Disorders – List of Available Services*

The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition (MdCSWC), sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, represents the interests of more than 9,500 licensed clinical social workers in Maryland. On behalf of MdCSWC, we **support** Senate Bill 453.

Senate Bill 453 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.

Evidence demonstrates that mentally healthy children reach developmental and emotional milestones, including healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems, which results in a positive quality of life. Early diagnosis and appropriate services for children and their families can make a difference in the lives of children with mental disorders. Though BHA maintains a list of licensed providers and the services that each provider is licensed to provide, it does not track whether a licensed provider is enrolled in Medicaid or accepts commercial health insurance. Senate Bill 453 would help parents have access to essential mental health services for their child by providing key information relating to payment and reimbursement for such services.

As such, MdCSWC urges the Senate Finance Committee to give Senate Bill 453 a favorable report.

For more information call:

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