



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 502

Title: Health Insurance – Telehealth – Delivery of Mental Health Services – Coverage for Home Settings

Hearing Date: February 19, 2020

Position: Support

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) supports *Senate Bill 502 – Health Insurance – Telehealth – Delivery of Mental Health Services – Coverage for Home Settings*. This bill would require the Maryland Medicaid program to provide mental health services through telehealth in a person’s home.

LCPCM has long supported the expansion of Medicaid rules to include licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs). We were very pleased to see Medicaid amend their regulations in the fall of 2019, expanding the list of providers eligible for reimbursement for telehealth services, including LCPCs. Unfortunately, the regulations do not provide for telehealth services provided in an individual’s home, and continue to require an individual receiving services to be located in a secondary health care setting, referred to as the “originating site”. This often negates the convenience and practicality of receiving services via telehealth.

Of particular hardship are families seeking mental health treatment for their child outside of school hours. While many mental health clinicians provide evening hours to accommodate school and work schedules, health care offices and clinics may not choose to remain open in the evenings for the sole purpose of providing a physical location to meet Medicaid’s originating site requirement. Given the existing barriers in accessing mental health treatment, this structure doesn’t make sense.

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.