



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

February 18, 2020

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

Re: SB 624 – Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland – Study - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

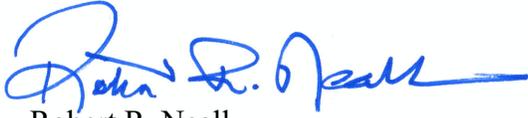
The Maryland Department of Health (“the Department”) submits this letter of information regarding SB 624 - Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland – Study.

SB 624 requires the Department to conduct a study by December 1, 2020, and plan to implement a comprehensive statewide Mobile Response and Crisis System for children and families by July 1, 2022. The System must include: 1) a 72-hour mobile response; 2) an 8-week stabilization service; and 3) intensive care coordination. The System must adhere to: 1) a system of care principles; 2) national best practices and curriculum; and 3) definitions for children, families, and a single assessment tool. Conservatively, the Department estimates establishing a System as defined in SB 624 will cost at least \$27 million in total funds (\$18.8M federal funds, \$8.9M general funds) annually.

Expanding the crisis service network statewide has been a key focus of the Lt. Governor’s Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland. The Crisis Services subcommittee began meeting in early 2019 and offered its first round of recommendations in December 2019. This subcommittee will continue to meet throughout 2020. Concurrently, the Department has engaged in a substantial stakeholder-driven process to redesign the Behavioral Health system of care in Maryland. Given these two major initiatives already underway, additional work groups convened with the purpose of studying these same issues, the Department respectfully asks the Committee to consider folding this bill’s intent into the ongoing efforts.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Neall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Neall
Secretary