



## *On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.*

7310 Esquire Court, Mailbox 14  
Elkridge, MD 21075

Phone 410.540.9020  
Fax 410.540.9024

### **Testimony in Support of House Bill 374 WITH AMENDMENTS**

#### **Behavioral Health Administration- Children with Mental Disorders- List of Available Services**

#### **House Health and Government Operations Committee February 5, 2020**

On Our Own of Maryland (OOOMD) is a statewide behavioral health consumer education and advocacy organization that has been in operation for more than 25 years. We are comprised of current or former recipients of mental health and substance use services and we represent 23 behavioral health peer-operated Wellness and Recovery Centers throughout Maryland. We are organized in order to improve access to competent, respectful, and effective recovery-based treatment, services, and supports, as well as to promote quality of life for everyone with behavioral health needs, especially for people who are underserved and marginalized. We provide training, technical assistance, and advocacy support to our statewide network of peer-run programs in an effort to ensure the sustainability of nonprofit entities that foster equality, autonomy and choice for behavioral health service recipients.

On Our Own of Maryland supports HB 374's goal of requiring the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to maintain an updated list of service categories available to children with mental health disorders. However, we respectfully suggest *three important points of amendment*: **1)** BHA be required to maintain a list of active programs that provide these services **2)** The list of active programs and services categories include substance use services and programs and **3)** the list be made publicly available rather than requiring a formal request.

As an organization who operates a project focused on young adults and receives many calls from teens and their family members trying to understand and access available mental health and substance use services. A list of service categories and active programs for children with mental health and substance use disorders would be an enormously valuable resource that would enable our staff to more efficiently connect individuals and families to needed treatment and support.

**We strongly urge the committee to support HB 374 with the amendments above.**