



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 1140 – Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland – Study – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) is submitting this letter of information regarding House Bill 1140 (HB 1140) Health – Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland – Study.

HB1140 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 HB 1140 will cost at least \$27M TF (\$18.8M FF, \$8.9M GF) 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.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs Webster Ye at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary