



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1140 - Health - Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland - Study

SPONSOR: Delegate Charles

HEARING DATE: March 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1140 - Health - Mobile Response and Stabilization System for Children and Families in Maryland - Study**, which requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland to undertake a series of specified tasks, including reviewing data, developing specified methods, studying existing mobile response efforts and financing models, examining specified payment mechanisms, and seeking input from interested stakeholders, in order to develop and implement a comprehensive mobile response and stabilization system for children and families. MDH and the commission must develop a plan to implement a statewide MRSS by July 1, 2022. By December 1, 2020, MDH and the commission must submit specified findings and recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Maryland's public behavioral health system provides mental health services to over 200,000 individuals and substance use services to over 100,000 individuals annually, the majority of which are covered by Medicaid. Further, Medicaid insures over 20 percent of the State's population.

In FY 2019, 8,597 Prince George's County children (ages 0-17 years) received mental health treatment in the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS). Children represented well over one-third (37.6%) of all County residents served in mental health treatment in the PBHS in FY 2019, slightly higher than the state (35.0%). The number of children receiving mental health treatment has been increasing for several years.

In FY2019, 388 Prince George's County children aged 6-17 years received Substance Related Disorder Treatment (SUD) in the PBHS. Children (6-17 years) represented 6.3% of all County residents served in SUD treatment in the PBHS in FY2019, higher than the state (3.1%).

Given the substantial role of both the public behavioral health system and the commercial insurance market in delivering and financing behavioral health services within the State, the subcommittee's focus areas will make an important contribution to the Commission's work. The services outlined in the bill would be more comprehensive than our current offerings and may result in a reduction in contracted expenses.

The Health Department strongly supports HB 1140 as a critical measure to increase available services for children and families experiencing mental health crises. Given the dearth of strong providers in the County, this is an essential service. The bill would create a 72-hour mobile response, eight-week stabilization service, and linkage to care coordination.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1140** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.