

MATOD - SB 96 FAV - Safety Plans.pdf

Uploaded by: Ashkin, Howard

Position: FAV



**Senate Finance Committee
January 26, 2021**

**Senate Bill 96
Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health
Care Facilities - Safety Plan**

Support

**Board of Directors
2019 - 2021**

President

Vickie Walters, LCSW-C
IBR/REACH Health Services
VWalters@IBRinc.org

President Elect

Josh Grollmes, MS
Serenity Health
JGrollmes@serenityllc.net

Secretary

Melissa Vail, LCPC
Sinai Hospital Addictions Recovery
Program (SHARP)
MAVail@lifebridgehealth.org

Treasurer

Babak Imanoel, D.O.
Northern Parkway Treatment
Services, BH Health Services
BabakImanoel@gmail.com

National AATOD Liaison

Kenneth Stoller, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
The Broadway Center
KStolle@jhmi.edu

Immediate Past President

Howard Ashkin, MMH, PsA
MedMark Treatment Centers
HAshkin@MedMark.com

MATOD supports Senate Bill 96. The bill requires safety plans for clients and staff at behavioral health programs and that those plans be submitted to the State for licensure. All behavioral health programs should have such plans.

The other part of the sponsor's amendment mandates those programs whose accreditation organizations require it, to file their community relations plan with the State. This document along with numerous others would be required in order to obtain a license.

The State of Maryland adopted policy just a few years ago mandating that all substance use disorder and mental health programs receive accreditation from one of several national accrediting organizations. Opioid Treatment Programs have always had this requirement. These national accreditation organizations require treatment programs to have numerous policies and plans regarding all aspects of their operations. Safety or emergency preparedness plans are required. In addition, some programs are required to have community relations plans by their accreditation organizations. Having all of these plans filed with the Behavioral Health Administration is appropriate.

We ask for a favorable report.



c/o IBR/REACH Health Services
2104 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21218



(410) 752-6080



www.matod.org

MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.

SB 96_Safety and Community Relations Plan_BHSB_SUP

Uploaded by: Jefferson , Stacey

Position: FAV



January 26, 2021

Senate Finance Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

SB 96 -Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities - Safety and Community Relations Plans

Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) a nonprofit organization that serves as the local behavioral health authority (LBHA) for Baltimore City. BHSB works to increase access to a full range of quality behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and advocates for innovative approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery for individuals, families, and communities. **Baltimore City represents nearly 35 percent of the public behavioral health system in Maryland, serving over 77,000 people with mental illness and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as “behavioral health”) annually.**

BHSB supports SB 96 Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities - Safety and Community Relations Plans. This bill requires that the Behavioral Health Administration must adopt regulations to require a behavioral health program to establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of individuals served by the behavioral health program as part of the requirements for licensure.

The State of Maryland a few years ago adopted [COMAR 10.63](#) which outlines the licensing and accreditation requirements for community based behavioral health programs. All providers are required to be accredited from a national accreditation organization in order to be licensed in the State of Maryland. Certain accreditation organizations require behavioral health programs to have community relations plans in order to receive accreditation. Requiring behavioral health organizations to file these plans with the Behavioral Health Administration is appropriate.

SB 96 aligns with current national accreditation standards for community-based behavioral health programs and will ensure that community relations plans are made available to the State. **As such, BHSB urges the Senate Finance Committee to support SB 96.**

SB 96- Public Health-Behavioral Health Programs an

Uploaded by: McCray, Cory

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 96

Bill Title: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans

Hearing Date: January 26, 2021 – Finance Committee

Chair: The Honorable Delores Kelly; Vice Chair: The Honorable Brian Feldman

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 96. Behavioral health programs provide mental health case management, which allows for their employees to gain insight into clients' emotional and psychological well-being. These programs require licensure in order to operate in the State of Maryland.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt regulations that would govern the requirements for the licensure of a behavioral health program to include a safety plan that ensures the safety of all individuals served before the license is issued. Further, it would require that programs submit a community relations plan, if required by its accrediting organization, that would effectively engage their clients and their families while also promoting adequate community outreach. The Behavioral Health Administration shall take into consideration the submitted safety and community relations plan prior to the Administration approving a facility.

If enacted, this bill would take effect on October 1, 2021.

In efforts to ensure that every behavioral health program is providing the utmost quality of care and safety to its respective clients and communities, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 96.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
45th District

HFAM Testimony SB 96 Final.pdf

Uploaded by: DeMattos, Joseph

Position: FWA



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

January 26, 2021

Senate Bill 96: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities –
Safety and Community Relations Plans
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for Senate Bill 96. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

HFAM members provide the majority of post-acute and long-term care to Marylanders in need: 6 million days of care across all payer sources annually, including more than 4 million Medicaid days of care and one million Medicare days of care. Thousands of Marylanders across the state depend on the high-quality services that our skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers offer every day.

Senate Bill 96 would require behavioral health programs to establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of individuals served by the behavioral health program. If a behavioral health program is required to be granted accreditation as a condition of licensure, and the accreditation organization requires the program to adopt a community relations plan, the program shall submit the community relations plan to the Administration. Before the Department approves the operation of a facility, including granting a license, the Department shall require the facility to establish and implement a safety plan and if the facility is accredited by an accreditation organization and required to establish a community relations plan, the facility must also establish and implement a community relations plan.

The amendment we request: On page 4, in line 2, after "PURPOSE" insert, "INCLUDING AN EMERGENCY PLAN."

Skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers and assisted living campuses in Maryland have emergency and safety plans in place. In addition, they actively engage in community outreach and events such as Halloween celebrations, Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, Veterans Day events, Mother's and Father's Day gatherings, and even inauguration activities involving the community.

While appropriate and necessary COVID-19 infectious disease protocols have curtailed in-person activity, community relations professionals in our setting continue their work in the community with drive-thru and virtual events such turkey giveaways and virtual Alzheimer's Association walks.

Community engagement is good for the health of all involved, is good for business, whether for- or not-for-profit, and it's simply just right thing to do.

(more)

HFAM Testimony - HB 96

January 26, 2021

Page 2

For these reasons, we support Senate Bill 96 with the amendment on page 4, in line 2, after "PURPOSE" insert, "INCLUDING AN EMERGENCY PLAN."

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.

President and CEO

(410) 290-5132

SB 96.FWA.MACS.pdf

Uploaded by: Kallins, Lauren

Position: FWA

Board of Directors

Shawn Kros, President
The Arc Northern
Chesapeake Region

Karen Adams-Gilchrist, President Elect
Providence Center

Monica McCall, Past President
Creative Options

Scott Evans, Treasurer
Benedictine Programs and Services

Clarissa Mitchell, Secretary
EPIC

Keith Danos
Jewish Foundation for
Group Homes

John Dumas
Service Coordination, Inc.

Mike Dyer
United Needs and Abilities

Randy Ferguson
The Center for Life Enrichment

David Greenberg
The League

Scott Hollingsworth
Appalachian Crossroads

Doug McQuade
Ardmore Enterprises

Greg Miller
Penn-Mar Human Services

Judi Olinger
Humanim

Daphne Pallozzi
Ardmore Enterprises

Michael Planz
Community Living, Inc.

Matt Rice
Self Advocate

Jonathon Rondeau
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Chrissy Shawver
The Arc Montgomery County

Sequya Tasker
Lt. J.P. Kennedy Institute

Laura Howell,
Executive Director

Senate Finance Committee SB 96: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans Position: Support With Amendment

January 26, 2021

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 100 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

Health and safety is central to the core mission of enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live meaningful, inclusive lives in their communities. DDA-licensed community service providers are highly regulated with regard to health, safety and emergency protocols as part of the regular licensing process, including a requirement under *COMAR 10.22.02.10(A)(17)* that requires IDD providers to have an effective disaster plan in place.

We respectfully request amendment language for the proposed section 19-1C.01.22 on page 3 of the bill that clarifies that the disaster plan already required of DDA licensed providers will satisfy the requirements of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Kallins
LKallins@macsonline.org

SB 96 - Oppose - MPS WPS.pdf

Uploaded by: Tompsett, Thomas

Position: UNF



January 26, 2021

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

RE: Oppose – SB 96: Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities
- Safety and Community Relations Plans

Dear Chairman Kelley and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strives through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those suffering from a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS and WPS oppose Senate Bill 96 (SB 96) as this bill reinforces stigma and unwarranted fear of individuals presenting with mental or other forms of illness by suggesting that every facility which treats these individuals must protect the community from them. In actuality, people with mental illness are at increased risk of violence and victimization from the community. Therefore, portraying a behavioral health treatment program as a source of danger will deter people from seeking treatment at that program. In addition, SB 96 may inadvertently create liability issues for the clinic for circumstances that are beyond their control and thus drive up the cost of mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

For these reasons, MPS and WPS respectfully ask the committee for an unfavorable report on SB 96. If you have any questions with regard to this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett, Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com

Respectfully submitted,
The Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society
Legislative Action Committee

SB0096_INFO_LifeSpan_Safety and Community Relation

Uploaded by: Kauffman, Danna

Position: INFO



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cory V. McCray

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: **LETTER OF INFORMATION** – Senate Bill 96 – *Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community-based services, we submit this **letter of information** for Senate Bill 96.

Senate Bill 96 requires those under Title 19 of the Health-General Article to have a safety plan. This includes nursing homes, assisted living communities, medical adult day centers, hospice programs and home health and home care agencies. Senate Bill 96 includes a provision that states that a facility may satisfy the requirements of this legislation if it has a safety plan that is submitted for another purpose. From the bill discussion last Session, it is our understanding that existing emergency and disaster plans would qualify under this provision. However, we would like confirmation/clarification that this is an accurate statement. A separate and additional plan would place an undue burden on these facilities. Therefore, we would request clarification in the bill that an emergency and/or disaster plan satisfies the requirement to implement a safety plan. Thank you.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
410-244-7000