



*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary*

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill 548– Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 548 – Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training. The Commission, under the Department of Human Services (DHS), will coordinate a statewide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of state services to children, youth, and families.

MDH's Behavioral Health Administration's Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Division have several initiatives related to the proposed trauma-informed objectives of the Commission:

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Interface Project** conducts presentations across the state on ACEs' impact in early childhood and ACEs prevention.
- **The Center for Excellence Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health** hosts trauma-informed public awareness, training, capacity building, and services.
- **Handle With Care** is a partnership with local school systems and police to inform schools of children involved with police activity.
- **The Maryland Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP)** provides statewide behavioral health consultation, training, and resources on children's mental health. Consulting physicians with BHIPP screen for the presence of significant trauma and use this information to inform their recommendations.
- **Residential Treatment Centers** must use trauma-informed Care when developing individualized care plans.
- **Therapeutic Group Homes** must use trauma-informed Care in the development of treatment plans and interventions.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, MDH unfortunately does not have the fiscal or personnel resources to implement the additional requirements on trauma-informed care within this bill if it is passed. Many of MDH's current personnel have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders, as seen in the work that BHA is already doing in this area. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov) or Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Shek at [heather.shek@maryland.gov](mailto:heather.shek@maryland.gov) and the same number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Webster Ye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Webster Ye  
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy