



HB 1010 – Children – Substance Abuse Court-Ordered Evaluations and Treatment

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Date: February 24, 2022

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) helps families who care for a loved one with behavioral health needs. Using personal experience, our staff provide one-to-one peer support and navigation services to family members with a child, youth or adult with a mental health, substance use or gambling issue.

MCF strongly supports HB 1010.

The last six years has seen the closure of all four of Maryland’s residential substance use treatment programs for adolescents that accepted Maryland Medicaid. One of the reasons for this was that the Department of Juvenile Services stopped sending children with DJS-involvement to those programs. Instead, they made the policy decision that they could provide the substance use treatment that the youth needed in-house. This has turned out to not be the case.

Currently, kids who become involved with DJS and have a serious addiction issues are not receiving the treatment that they need. At best, they are getting programs inappropriate to their level of need, at worst, they are sitting in DJS facilities with no treatment at all.

DJS and the Department of Health are at odds at who should pay for the residential substance use treatment needs of children who become DJS involved. DJS-involved kids are trapped in the middle of this disagreement. HB 1010 would require that DJS step up to the plate and evaluate the children who are DJS-involved for substance use issues, and then provide them with the needed level of care. We urge a favorable report on HB 1010.

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