



Maryland Community Health System

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 581 – Behavioral Health Coordination Value-Based Purchasing Pilot Program

Hearing Date: March 7, 2023

Position: Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 581 – Behavioral Health Coordination – Value Based Purchasing Pilot Program*. The bill proposes the establishment of a pilot intensive care coordination model using value-based purchasing in the specialty behavioral health system. The pilot will serve at least 500 Medicaid participants.

Under a value-based purchasing model, the health care system is incentivized to focus on patient outcomes. As we are in the midst of a behavioral health crisis, it makes sense to determine if this model can effectively support people with complex behavioral health needs. There are some challenges in making sure incentives are aligned correctly, so we support the thoughtful approach of this bill by first establishing a pilot.

There are some lessons that we can learn from models in other states, including Arizona, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Those states had to navigate implementation issues such as provider capacity and quality measurement.ⁱ With knowledge of those other states' experiences, we will have a head start in implementing our own pilot.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.chcs.org/resource/moving-toward-value-based-payment-medicare-behavioral-health-services/>