



Senate Bill 362
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics - Established
Finance Committee
February 14, 2023
Support

Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB 362 which would increase access to comprehensive community based mental health and substance use care by expanding Maryland’s network of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).

Inspired by the Gospel to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. For 100 years, Catholic Charities has accompanied Marylanders as they age with dignity, obtain empowering careers, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve economic independence, prepare for educational success and feel welcome as immigrant neighbors. We recognize the need to have an array of community-based services for children, youth and adults seeking assistance.

Federally designated CCBHCs provide a comprehensive range of integrated community-based services, including crisis response, mental health, substance use, along with other services, as well as care coordination with other providers and systems. There are nine core services that a CCBHC must including: services for children and youth, 24/7 crisis intervention, peer supports, substance use treatment and primary health screening and monitoring, with a financing model that incentivizes positive outcomes along with flexibility over volume and frequency of visits.

CCBHC’s solve many of the problems in our current system. Under a CCBHC model, wait times are greatly reduced allowing individuals to get immediate access to care. CCBHC’s are required to provide treatment regardless of insurance or ability removing barriers to access. Co-location is an important feature – making it easier for the client but also for the care team to coordinate services.

As we seek to reform Maryland’s public behavioral health system and the children’s system of care, CCBHC’s are an important strategy to help us create a system that is reliable and responsive.

For the reasons listed above, Catholic Charities of Baltimore appreciates your consideration, and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 362.

Submitted By: Regan Vaughan, Director of Advocacy

