



**Senate Bill 362 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics – Established**

Senate Finance Committee

February 14, 2023

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Evolve Life Centers program provides a wide range of clinically intensive treatment services, including, Partial Hospitalization, Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient, Mental Health, Medium Intensity Residential Treatment, Low Intensity Residential Treatment, Recovery Housing and DUI Education through our 12 plus locations throughout Pasadena and the surrounding area in Anne Arundel County, MD.

SB 362 will increase access to comprehensive community based mental health and substance use care by expanding Maryland's network of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCS).

CCBHCS are federally designated, proven models that provide a comprehensive range of outpatient mental health and substance use treatment, care coordination with other providers and services, and connection to other systems and supports. They are based on the federally qualified health center (FQHC) model, providing services regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

CCBHCS must provide nine core services, including services for children and youth, 24/7 crisis intervention, peer supports, substance use treatment, and primary health screening and monitoring. States that have implemented the model broadly have seen increased access to care, reductions in emergency department and inpatient utilization, a mitigation of behavioral health workforce challenges, higher engagement post discharge from hospitals, improved utilization of medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders, and improved integration with physical care.

Evolve understands the challenges faced with finding support and treatment services that are right for the needs of individuals and their families. This bill will improve behavioral health outcomes, save money, and keep people out of crisis by expanding access to care.

**For these reasons, Evolve Life Centers politely asks for a favorable report on SB 362.**

**For more information call or email:**

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