



DATE: March 14, 2023 **COMMITTEE:** House Health and Government Operations
BILL NO: House Bill 870
BILL TITLE: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration -
Memorandum of Understanding
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 870 - Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities Administration - Memorandum of Understanding.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 870 requires the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This MOU will include a data sharing agreement for the medical and psychological records of mutual clients to expedite decisions regarding eligibility for services.

Background:

Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's specialized services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

Rationale:

DORS has crucial services for individuals with disabilities. These programs are the building blocks for a successful transition from school to meaningful employment and increasing independence. If utilized to maximum capacity, the range of services available can support students from as early as age 14 years through adulthood. Accessing services through DORS can be challenging for many individuals with disabilities and has become significantly more challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, DORS provided services to 6,815 youth with significant disabilities (DORS annual report, 2022). This number represents a relatively small fraction of the individuals in Maryland living with disabilities. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Disability and Health Data System there were 911,437 Marylanders living with a disability in 2020. According to the Maryland Early Intervention and Special Education Service Census Data and Related Tables report, there were 108,862 students with individualized education program in the Maryland School Systems in the 2021 to 2022 school year.

Having a MOU between DDA and DORS, organizations that serve overlapping populations, will expedite the process of being approved for the important services offered by both departments.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 870.

Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Human Development and Disability. Disability and Health Data System (DHDS) Data [online]. [accessed March 3 2023] URL: <https://dhds.cdc.gov>

Maryland Early Intervention and Special Education Services Census Data & Related Tables. Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services. [Accessed 3.9.23]
https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SSP/20212022Student/2021-Early-Intervention-Special-Education-Census-Publication-v2_a.pdf

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