



**CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

*Integrity.Passion.Results*

*Since 2006*

## **HB1198 – Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs - Discharge of Patients and Referral Services - Standards**

### **FAVORABLE**

Carrington & Associates, LLC, requests a FAVORABLE report for HB1198. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish by regulation standards relating to the discharge of patients from drug and alcohol treatment programs and certain referral services offered to patients by certain drug and alcohol treatment programs.

We would like to thank Delegate Howard and all of the co-sponsors for bringing this important legislation forward. Borrowing from an abstract in Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics, Volume 17, Number 1 (2020): “The proverbial elephant in the addiction treatment industry is the accepted disciplinary intervention of administrative discharge (AD); the forced termination of patients from addiction treatment services. Despite its usage, this practice is not anchored in consensus about best practices or sanctioned by national guidelines. As a result, administrative discharges are based on rationale ranging from violations of clinic rules regarding safety to merely failing to conform to staff expectations. Patients may be administratively discharged with little nexus to addiction recovery resources and while continuing to exhibit symptoms that demonstrate continued need for treatment. Unchecked use of this administrative tool creates a risk of clinical abandonment and may mask prolonged and repeated program failures. Thus, the practice of administrative discharge may simultaneously increase the risk of relapse while precluding quality assurance and improvement initiatives.”

This commonsense, bi-partisan approach to address administrative discharge is to be commended. We look forward to working with the bill sponsors and advocates, in any capacity needed, to move this legislation forward.

For the stated reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB1198. Please contact Darrell Carrington at [darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net), if you have questions, or would like additional information.

6007 Hillmeade Road, Bowie, MD 20720  
Cell 732.763.7398 Fax 732.763.7398  
[darrell.carrington@verizon.net](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net)