



**House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 21, 2023**

Senate Bill 101

**Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services –
Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports support Senate Bill SB 101 which will expand access to the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM). This proven effective model has shown to improve the quality of behavioral health care delivered in primary care settings through a pilot program and should now be expanded for all Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid.

CoCM is a validated, patient-centered, evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health care in primary care settings, which is where most people with mild to moderate behavioral health conditions first seek care. It has shown to improve health outcomes and save money, mostly in reductions in unnecessary hospitalization and higher intensity levels of care.

Commercial health insurers in Maryland and Medicare already reimburse providers for delivering this model. Maryland Medicaid pilot program utilizing CoCM has demonstrated clinically significant improvement in depression and anxiety symptoms for more than 65 percent of participants. It is time to end the pilot and join more than 20 other states that are providing CoCM broadly to their Medicaid enrollees.

This bill will help better connect primary care providers with the substance use disorder and/or mental health care providers. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 101.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.