House Health and Government Operations Committee

HB 1146- Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System-Integration of 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Network and Outcome Evaluations

March 3, 2025
Position: FAV

The Maryland Coalition of Families: Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides family peer support services at no cost to families who have a loved one with a mental health, substance use, or problem gambling disorder. Using their experience as parents, caregivers, and other loved ones, our staff provide emotional support, resource connection, systems navigation, support groups, and educational training and workshops.

Last year, we served nearly 5,000 families, and 73% were families with children. Additionally, 15% were families with substance use and co-occurring disorders, 10% were adults with a mental health diagnosis, and 2% were families with a loved one with problem gambling disorder.

HB 1146 aims to ensure greater accountability and informed policy decisions that reduce barriers to care, hospitalizations, and incarceration and enhance connections to resources and support. This approach will also increase equitable access by addressing disparities through data disaggregation. This data will be necessary for many programs and organizations as it will provide additional information about the needs of their communities and those they serve.

Many of the families we serve utilize both systems when navigating a crisis. This coordination is vital as it guarantees access to a full range of life-saving services, which helps to ease the stress many families face when seeking help.

This efficient and accessible approach will strengthen Maryland's behavioral health system and help strengthen Maryland's families, individuals, and communities. Maryland Coalition of Families urges the committee for a favorable report on HB 1146.

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