

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

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Maryland Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB1084 Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding - **Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee:

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies, coordinates across public safety agencies, and allocates resources statewide to support public safety. One of GOCPP's duties is monitoring and reporting to the federal government on racial and ethnic disparities in Maryland's juvenile justice system. GOCPP respectfully supports House Bill 1084 - Correctional Services - Medication-Assisted Treatment Funding, with amendments.

Of particular concern to GOCPP are the changes HB1084 would make to the medications made available to patients receiving medication-assisted treatment and ensuring GOCPP receives the data from local correctional facility to comply with the reporting requirements under §9–603 of the Correctional Services Article.

Under §9–603 of the Correctional Services Article, the Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment Act, GOCPP must monitor and report on the implementation of medication-assisted treatment in local correctional facilities. The required reporting includes 17 unique measures collected annually from each local correctional facility in the State. Since enactment, GOCPP has worked closely with the local correctional facilities on implementing the Act. To increase compliance, our office contracted Health Management Associates to provide technical assistance through in-person, site-specific consultation, weekly virtual learning sessions, and an in-person learning collaborative. Topics included evidence-based practices for MAT and treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) in justice-involved populations and data collection. In total, 18 counties participated in the technical assistance. GOCPP's work to improve implementation also includes grant funding to counties and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services through the Performance Incentive Grant Fund and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

Among other changes, HB 1084 repeals the requirement that each local correctional facility make available at least one formulation of each FDA-approved full opioid agonist, partial opioid agonist, and long-acting opioid antagonist used for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). According to the American Society of Addictions Medicine, "all FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder should be available to all patients. Clinicians should consider the patient's preferences, past treatment history, current state of illness, and treatment setting when deciding between the use of methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone."¹ **GOCPP**

¹ American Society of Addictions Medicine. (2020). National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. White et al.

proposes an amendment to retain the current requirement that correctional facilities provide each FDA-approved medication.

Furthermore, HB 1084 would allow counties to recoup the entire cost of MAT implementation through the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). Other State funding is available to supplement this critical effort, and there are many initiatives that do and will rely on the ORF. GOCPP administers the Performance Incentive Grant Fund and the Residential Substance Use Treatment Grant Program, which can support substance use treatment programming in local detention centers. **In support of our sister agency's effort to ensure the ORF can support as many important initiatives as possible, GOCPP proposes an amendment requiring counties to demonstrate an attempt to obtain grant funding from GOCPP or the Maryland Department of Health before requesting reimbursement from the ORF.**

Finally, to ensure GOCPP receives data required under §9-603 in a complete and timely manner, the office proposes an amendment that would reduce ORF funding by 20% for counties that do not provide the required information by the designated deadlines.

Providing local correctional facilities the resources necessary to provide substance use treatment will improve both public safety and public health outcomes. GOCPP strongly urges a favorable report on HB1084 with the proposed amendments to ensure Maryland jails meet the standard of care for the treatment of individuals with substance use disorder.

For more information, please contact
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