

Department of Detention Facilities

Jennifer Road Detention Center

131 Jennifer Road

Annapolis, MD 21401

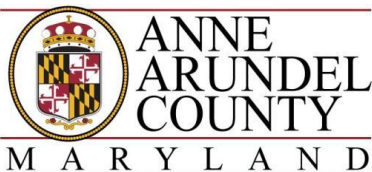
410-222-7374

Christopher Klein
Superintendent

2/28/25

Good afternoon Chairman Clippinger, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am Christopher Klein, Vice President of the MCAA, and the Superintendent of the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities. I am testifying in both of these capacities and in support of House Bill 1084 Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding **with amendments**. As a general statement, I want to share that the law only has value if it is enforced. While I do not want to belabor the point, the original legislation, HB116 was introduced in 2019 requiring local detention centers to fully implement MAT programs within our facilities by January 2023. **We did this**. That bill was also very clear that the “Funding for the program shall be provided in the state budget. **This, never happened**. I actually believe it was Senator McKay that received an AG’s opinion that “a local jurisdictions obligation to provide the services required by that section”, in their view “**are contingent** on the State providing the necessary funding.” It is my belief that if that law, as written, was enforced, there would be no need for us to be here today. While I do not know all the details of every MAT program implemented, I do know that each of us continue to question where and when we will receive the State funding for our programs.



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We also concur that the current options of each of us trying to piecemeal our funding and seeking out grants that require more reporting, are not guaranteed, unsustainable, and have us competing against each other, other entities, and in some cases even our own County, is not the solution and not what was intended. This legislation, at face value, will correct that. While I believe the State Budget Office could have made these funding decisions for themselves, they have willfully chosen not to. I am thankful this body has recognized their failure and has decided to take action. I believe this bill still needs some work with language and clarity; however, it is necessary at this point. The costs of MAT programs and services come at a real price, but the alternative of continuing to lose individuals to opioid use disorder is much higher. In closing, I want to reiterate my support for this bill, but I would be remiss if I did not remind this body that this law, if passed, will also only have value if it is enforced.

Thank you

Christopher Klein

Christopher Klein, CCE
Superintendent
Vice President MCAA