

HB 814 - FAV - Carroll County Youth Service Bureau

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV



CARROLL COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU, INC.

59 KATE WAGNER ROAD – WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

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Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee Support

February 26, 2025

HB 814- Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus.

Carroll County Youth Service Bureau supports HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus. HB 814 asks the Department of Juvenile Services to provide a Report outlining the Department’s efforts to collaborate with a Local Governments in the funding and establishment of YSBs and collaborations between DJS and YSBs to prevent delinquency.

Youth Service Bureaus have been part of Maryland’s strategy for over 40 years, and Carroll County for more than 50 years), to provide a network of prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The network of YSBs was designed to be community based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family’s protective factors.

The Carroll County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB) is a multifaceted outpatient mental health treatment agency licensed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF), and certified by the Department of Juvenile Services. Treatment and prevention services are largely designed to support children, adolescents, and families, with adult services available as well. Treatment options include psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations, and home-based services through the Family Preservation, Assertive Community Treatment, and Mobile treatment programs, and many programs serving youth of all ages. Additionally, we offer five (5) evidence-based treatment programs.

The staff is composed of 1) Psychiatrists who provide psychiatric assessments and medication management, with our full-time psychiatrist serving as the Medical Director, 2) master’s level social workers and professional counselors who specialize in child and family therapy, 3) case managers and 4) peer counselors.

CCYSB has developed a unique collaborative relationship with Carroll County Government and many Carroll County agencies (both public and private) to ensure the continuum of mental health services is available and accessible by all.

CCYSB, in partnership with Carroll County Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and Carroll County Local Management Board (LMB), provides behavioral health case management services for youth and their families at risk of involvement in Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services. Family Engagement Program staff assesses the youth and family's needs and facilitates linkages to services in the community, with the purpose of diverting these youth from involvement, or further involvement in DJS.

Since their creation, YSBs have had a deep connection with the Department of Juvenile Services, one that could be strengthened at this time when community services are in great need. YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system 2 years after ending counseling.

We respectfully ask you to Support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynn Davis

Carroll County Youth Service Bureau, Inc.
59 Kate Wagner Road
Westminster, MD 21157
443-244-8650

HB 814 - FAV - KEYS Empowers.pdf

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV

**Testimony Submitted to
House Judiciary Committee Support**

February 26, 2025

HB 814- Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus - Support

KEYS Empowers, Inc. supports HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus. HB 814 requests the Department of Juvenile Services to provide a report outlining the Department’s efforts to collaborate with local governments in the funding and establishment of Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) and collaborations between DJS and YSBs to prevent delinquency.

Youth Service Bureaus have been part of Maryland’s strategy for over 40 years, providing a network of prevention services. This network was designed to be community-based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety, and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth, and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to our preventive, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of protective factors for young people and their families.

At KEYS Empowers, Inc., we are proud of the impactful work we have completed as the Youth Service Bureau for Baltimore City since 2022. Our efforts have been instrumental in enhancing the health, safety, and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth, and families through a community-based, family-focused approach.

Services Provided

KEYS Empowers, Inc. has delivered a comprehensive range of services designed to support the development of protective factors for young people and their families. Our core services include:

- **Counseling Services:** Providing individual, family, and group counseling, as well as substance use screening, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and trauma-informed care.
- **Referral Services:** Connecting individuals to essential services such as housing, primary care physicians, mental health, dental and vision services, vocational training, and legal services.
- **Community Programming:** Offering parenting classes, culinary therapy, art therapy, photo therapy, music therapy, after-school programming, workforce development, peer mediation, and youth violence reduction.
- **Barrier Removal:** Assisting with transportation, vital records, health insurance, food security, day care vouchers, job applications, clothing, hygiene needs, and child support.

Connection to the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)

Our connection with the Department of Juvenile Services has been a vital aspect of our work. We receive referrals from DJS and have established a collaborative relationship by regularly meeting with unit supervisors and case managers to discuss our services and ensure that justice-involved youth receive the support they need. To strengthen our connection with DJS, we plan to:

- **Increase Communication:** Enhance regular communication with DJS staff to ensure they are fully aware of our services and the benefits they offer to justice-involved youth.
- **Host Informational Sessions:** Organize sessions to inform new DJS staff about our enrollment process and the range of services we provide.
- **Collaborate on Programs:** Develop joint programs with DJS to address the specific needs of justice-involved youth, focusing on prevention and rehabilitation.

Success in Working with Families in Our Community

Our success in working with families in Baltimore City is evident through the positive impact of our programs and services. Some of our notable achievements include:

- **Graduation and Post-Graduation Support:** In the last 2 years, we have assisted 17 seniors with graduation and post-graduation needs, with 67% of those contacted 90 days post-discharge still working or enrolled in vocational/educational programs.
- **Legal Assistance:** Engaging 8 consumers through legal assistance for services such as restitution, fees, lawyer fees, community service, anger management, and workforce development.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Securing Memorandums of Understanding with key organizations such as The Center For Urban Families, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement, and YO! Baltimore.
- **Barrier Removal:** Providing essential services like eviction prevention, utility assistance, and transportation, which have significantly improved the quality of life for our participants.

Since its creation, YSBs have maintained a deep connection with the Department of Juvenile Services, one that could be strengthened at this time when community services are greatly needed. YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. Indeed, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system two years after ending counseling.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:



Ajah Doswell, LMSW

CFO

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HB0814_MHAMD_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Ann Geddes

Position: FAV

House Bill 814 – Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Youth Service Bureaus
House Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2025
Position: Favorable

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of HB 814.

HB 814 requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to report to the legislature on their efforts to promote predelinquent programs, including Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs), and their efforts to partner with local jurisdictions to establish YSBs.

YSBs have existed in Maryland for over 40 years. They have been shown to successfully provide juvenile justice diversion by providing mental health and substance use assessment, prevention and treatment services, involving both the youth and family.

Mental health conditions are prevalent among juvenile offenders. Some estimates suggest that the numbers are as high as 30% with depression or dysthymia, 30% with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, 7% with bipolar disorder, and 32% with posttraumatic stress disorder. On top of these mental health conditions, many juvenile offenders also have a conduct disorder or a substance use disorder.¹ By addressing these conditions, YSBs achieve outstanding outcomes: 95% of youth served in counseling do not enter the juvenile justice system two years after ending counseling.

A decade ago, a statewide network of YSBs received State funding through the Maryland Children’s Cabinet. In 2016, the priorities of the Children’s Cabinet shifted, and juvenile justice diversion programs were no longer on the menu of programs that could be funded, causing many YSBs to close or limit services.

Yet YSBs should be a statewide resource. In fact, in a January 2025 briefing to the Judicial Proceedings Committee, Secretary Schiraldi, when asked about DJS’s prevention and diversion services, specifically called out the benefits of YSBs and said that he wished there were one in every jurisdiction.

¹ Lee Underwood et.al. Mental Illness and Juvenile Offenders. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (2018).

YSBs are cost effective for the State because they are required to be State and local government partnerships. In addition, YSBs leverage grants and fees to diversify the funding of their programs. HB 814, by directing DJS to partner with local jurisdictions to establish YSBs, will bring about great benefits at a relatively low cost to the state, and will ultimately save dollars by keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system.

For this reason, MHAMD supports HB 814 and urges a favorable report.

Letter of Support for HB0814 from City of Bowie -

Uploaded by: City Council Bowie

Position: FAV



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee

Support

February 26, 2025

HB 814- Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus.

The City of Bowie supports HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus.

HB 814 asks the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to provide a report outlining the Department's collaboration with local governments in the funding and establishment of Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs), and to report on the ongoing partnership between DJS and YSBs on the prevention of delinquency.

The network of YSBs was designed to be community-based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland's children, youth and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family's protective factors.

The City of Bowie has successfully partnered with the State in the funding of the City of Bowie's Youth Service Bureau for the past 54 years. The agency provides counseling services, parenting classes, psycho-educational groups, crisis intervention services, mentoring, and school-based intervention and prevention programs for hundreds of our local youth each year. Bowie's YSB staff members do highly effective work and are a vital part of the system of care for our youth who are experiencing mental health or behavior issues.

HB 814 would strengthen the longstanding connection between DJS and Youth Service Bureaus at this time when community services are most needed. Again, YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system 2 years after counseling has concluded.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.

MAYOR Timothy J. Adams

MAYOR PRO TEM Dufour Woolfley

COUNCIL Dennis Brady • Wanda Rogers • Michael P. Estève • Clinton Truesdale • Roxy Ndebumadu • **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott
City Hall (301) 262-6200 FAX (301) 809-2302 TDD (301) 262-5013 WEB www.cityofbowie.org

HB 814 FINAL.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Karalyn Aanenson

Position: FAV

Aruna Miller
Lt. GovernorWes Moore
GovernorVincent Schiraldi
Secretary

Date: February 26, 2025
Bill Number/Title: HB 814 -Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Youth Service Bureaus
Committee: Judiciary
DJS Position: Support

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) supports HB 814 and the requirement to submit an annual report detailing its efforts to promote pre-delinquent programs, including youth service bureaus (YSB), as it aligns with the agency’s commitment to early intervention and prevention.

This report will allow for a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of YSB programs and activities, helping to identify best practices, address gaps, and strengthen community-based support systems. By formalizing this reporting process, DJS reinforces its dedication to proactive, data-driven strategies that prioritize the well-being and positive development of youth while reducing system involvement.

For these reasons, DJS requests a favorable report on HB 814.

Contact: Kara Aanenson, DJS Director of Legislation Policy and Reform, kara.aanenson@maryland.gov



MAYSB 2025 - HB 814 FAV - Youth Service Bureaus -

Uploaded by: Liz Park

Position: FAV



Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2025

HB 814 - Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Youth Service Bureaus

Support

Maryland's Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) provide effective youth delinquency diversion treatment and family intervention services aimed at developing competent youth who can become responsible and productive members of society. We support House Bill 814.

YSBs have been part of Maryland's delinquency prevention strategy for over 40 years, and work with youth and their families in helping to build effective skills to change behaviors. The network of YSBs have built strong, long-standing partnerships with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland's children, youth and families. The success can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family's protective factors.

YSBs are partnerships between state and local governments and should exist in every jurisdiction in Maryland, yet the gradual erosion of state funding has led to decline in the number of YSBs across the State. **This bill will be a significant step in rebuilding the network of YSBs and serving young people who come into contact with the juvenile justice system or who are demonstrating at-risk behaviors for delinquency.**

Many of the organizations that had been designated as YSBs that lost state funding still exist, but do not provide all of the services that are mandated in law to be an YSB. Several programs, unfortunately, closed permanently. However, there are many organizations that stand ready and willing to re-establish themselves as YSBs.

YSBs exist in Maryland statute within the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and are required to provide juvenile justice diversion. YSBs provide mental health and substance use assessment, prevention, and treatment services as well as community specific services to achieve this goal. Since their creation, YSBs have had a deep connection with the DJS, one that could be strengthened by this report.

A majority of young people coming into YSBs are referred for mental health services and the age of children the YSBs serve is getting younger. The pandemic has also added to the complexity of cases, and the demand for mental health services.

(over)

Youth Service Bureaus Provide Effective Mental Health and Prevention Services

- **95% of youth** served in formal counseling do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system two years after ending counseling
- YSBs measure effectiveness of their counseling services to youth and their families through the empirically-based Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). YSB results are well above national standards. In Maryland, **80% of youth** assessed by YSBs showed significant improvement, compared to the 60% national standard

Cost Effective Solution to Prevention Services

- YSBs are **cost effective**. Every investment of \$1 by the State leverages an additional \$8 in services

For all these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 814.

HB0814_FAV_City of Rockville_DJS - Report on Youth

Uploaded by: Marissa Valeri

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus
SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri, and I thank you for this opportunity. We thank Delegate Taylor for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 814, which asks the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to provide a Report outlining the Department's efforts to collaborate with Local Governments in the funding and establishment of Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) and collaborations between DJS and YSBs to prevent delinquency.

The City was a partner with the State for many years, as a designated YSB, to provide delinquency prevention and intervention services based on funds from both the State and local government. Without state funding, it is now not designated as a Youth Service Bureau but it has continued offering the same services, with city and county funding, as the School and Community Youth Services Program (SCYS). Rockville could benefit from partnering again with the state to facilitate serving more children, youth, and families as the need continues to grow. We request that the State reinstate funding Youth Service Bureaus, which are critically needed to support the well-being of our Youth.

The Rockville SCYS is based in several schools and in the community and has provided mental health services, youth development, and enrichment programs to support youth and their families. The benefits of the program include:

- Service provisions to address social isolation, academic struggles, social emotional delays due to the pandemic, and positive youth development.
- Youth and their families have benefited from assistance addressing depression, anxiety, trauma, substance misuse, and mood and behavior regulation.
- Program staff have seen students succeed in the home, schools, and communities, who, without assistance, were losing self-esteem and struggling to have hope for success.

YSBs are critical community resources that provide effective mental health and prevention services that our youth and families desperately need. HB 814 is an important step forward in elevating the need for YSBs in Maryland. For these reasons, we urge the committee to provide HB 814 with a favorable report.

Greenbelt Testimony HB814 Support, 2-24-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Timothy George

Position: FAV

**Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee
Support**

February 26, 2025

HB 814- Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus.

The City of Greenbelt supports HB 814 – Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus. HB 814 asks the Department of Juvenile Services to provide a Report outlining the Department’s efforts to collaborate with a Local Governments in the funding and establishment of YSBs and collaborations between DJS and YSBs to prevent delinquency.

Youth Service Bureaus have been part of Maryland’s strategy for over 40 years, to provide a network of prevention services. The network of YSBs was designed to be community based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family’s protective factors.

Greenbelt CARES Youth Services Bureau is a department within the City of Greenbelt. It was established to provide prevention services to children, youth and their families. Greenbelt CARES is a community-oriented, family focused agency offering a variety of mental health, education, and social supports to Greenbelt and surrounding communities in Prince George’s County. CARES provides individual adult and family counseling as well as Parenting Classes and Anger Management groups. CARES offers counseling and groups in Spanish and English. CARES provides educational supports to children, teens and young adults through a GED preparation class, tutoring services, and workforce development programs. CARES goals are to help young people succeed in life, in their educational pursuits, to make families a healthy place for children and adults to grow and prosper, and to connect residents with needed resources.

Some common issues for which families seek help are: ADHD; Aggression/Anger/ Violence; Bullying; Delinquent Behaviors; Depression/ Anxiety; Family Conflict; Grief/ Loss; Parenting Concerns; Poor Decision Making; School Related Problems; Social Skills; Suicide Ideation: and Truancy.

The City, as a local government, would embrace working with the Department of Juvenile Services to identify funding for Greenbelt CARES and other YSBs to further their work of preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

Since their creation, YSBs have had a deep connection with the Department of Juvenile Services, one that could be strengthened at this time when community services are in great need. YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system 2 years after ending counseling.

We respectfully ask you to Support this bill.