



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

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Deputy Secretary/Executive Director
55 Wade Ave., Dix Bldg., SGHC
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May 1, 2020

Dear Behavioral Health Partners:

It has now been a month since my last personal update to you, and almost six weeks since our behavioral health community has been operating in self-isolation through telehealth/telephonic platforms. I want to again express my sincerest appreciation for the flexibility, commitment, and support that all of you continue to extend to ensure that our behavioral health system remains responsive in meeting community needs.

We continue to rely on your partnership and your strength to rebuild community wellness as we move ahead. Sharing information through the **weekly FAQs** continues to be essential and beneficial to ensure a unified singular message to help us remain safe and keep our system operational during these unusual times. These FAQs, and all resources, can be found at our website: bha.health.maryland.gov/Pages/bha-covid-19.aspx.

Since my last message, we have added weekly **webinars** for providers to receive public health-related guidance and have shared a number of **resources** from the federal, state, and local level to help address heightened levels of stress, anxiety, fear, and severe depression. We also identified unspent grant funds to assist with obtaining **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** for healthcare workers and extending renewal deadlines for certificates and licenses.

In addition to media interviews, we released **public service announcements**, which are listed here and can be found at the [State of Maryland COVID-19 YouTube page](#) and on [our website](#):

- Health professionals/first responders 15 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGsdaRPxN3I>
- Health professionals/first responders 30 sec.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_iXi3i_4yg
- Health professionals/first responders 45 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3jXYicop74>
- Parents of young children 15 sec.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_ad_uqj0GU
- Parents of young children 30 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2x1xCJbn7w>
- Parents of young children 45 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc-X8sO12FU>
- Young adults/adolescents 15 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZOecl9ro60>

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- Young adults/adolescents 30 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqGu7oF8-JU>
- Young adults/adolescents 45 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHuaKppBQq0>
- Adults with disabilities 15 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgebfcNeVk8>
- Adults with disabilities 30 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llf8zKj6nWU>
- Adults with disabilities 45 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6xoO30-OpA>
- Adults and older adults 15 sec.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCd0tM_OvSc
- Adults and older adults 30 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GegiMum803o>
- Adults and older adults 45 sec.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJERlFe71pl>

Throughout the duration of this state of emergency, we will continue to work together to offer lessons learned, provide resources, and share best-practices to build community wellness and stability across our provider network. I am confident that together we will come out of this crisis stronger, more responsive, and remain adaptable to continue to improve the full continuum of care, restore hope and build resiliency throughout Maryland's communities.

As we remain under self-isolation, I encourage you to share all this information with your networks, and continue to encourage safe and proper hygiene, time for self-care, adequate sleep, proper nutrition, exercise and stay connected to family and other supports through whatever Wi-Fi platforms or phone capabilities you are comfortable with as we continue to observe social distancing.

Finally, since my last communication on March 31, we provided additional guidance specific to telehealth and other resources and updates to continue to support the behavioral health community. These include:

- **WOLB Radio Interview with the Deputy Secretary (April 10, 2020) Dr. Aliya Jones discusses maintaining mental health with Larry Young**
 - [Part 1 of 4](#)
 - [Part 2 of 4](#)
 - [Part 3 of 4](#)
 - [Part 4 of 4](#)
- [Mental Health Supports During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [COVID-19: Webinars](#)

Behavioral Health Partners

- [Letter from the Deputy Secretary \(March 31, 2020\): BHA's Action Steps in Response to COVID-19](#)

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- [Frequently Asked Questions \(April 27, 2020\): COVID-19 and Behavioral Health Administration Partners](#)

Community

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(April 28, 2020\): COVID-19 and Maintaining Mental Health](#)
- [Wellness and Recovery Resources \(April 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(April 14, 2020\)](#)

Providers

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(April 14, 2020\): COVID-19 and Opioid Treatment Programs \(OTP\)](#)
- [Memorandum from the Deputy Secretary \(March 31, 2020\): Guidance for Assertive Community Treatment \(ACT\) and Mobile Treatment Services Teams](#)
- [Poster: Medication-Assisted Treatment Continued Service \(11X17 or 8.5X11\)](#)
- [Memorandum from the Deputy Secretary \(April 2, 2020\): Extension of Certificates of Approval for Residential Rehabilitation Programs](#)
- [Guidance for ASAM Residential SUD Treatment Providers During the COVID-19 Outbreak \(April 7, 2020\)](#)

Telehealth

- [Telephone Services Authorized During State of Emergency for Supported Employment \(SE\) Services \(April 1, 2020\)](#)
- [Telehealth Guidance for SUD Residential Treatment Services During the COVID-19 Outbreak \(April 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Telephone/Telehealth Services Authorized for Intensive Outpatient SUD Programs: Service Rules for SUD IOP \(LEVEL 2.1\) \(April 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(April 27, 2020\): COVID-19 and Telehealth](#)

In addition, since my last communication, the Governor presented two additional Executive Orders:

- [Disability Services Personnel \(No. 20-03-31-02\)](#)
- [Authorizing Telehealth \(No. 20-04-01-01\)](#)

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We are developing even more resources now, including resources to help new patients know how to access care, and more specific support for essential and front-line workers. I also want to assure you that I am aware of the continued unease surrounding our new BHASO as we transition from estimated payments into the reconciliation process. We understand that the new system must operate successfully before estimated payments can stop, and we will be as proactive as possible to make sure this, and all of your concerns, are heard and addressed.

It is my goal to continue to be responsive to your needs and provide the leadership and support necessary that will enable all of us to be hopeful, encouraged and remain effective. In moving forward, when the Governor feels it is safe and appropriate to reopen, we need to be prepared. Thus, we continue to work closely with MDH, and we are beginning to hold internal discussions to ensure our system remains responsive to help our behavioral health community remain safe and effective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aliya Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Aliya Jones, M.D., MBA
Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health