



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

To: 10.63 Community Behavioral Health Providers
From: Rachel Talley, M.D., BHA, Acting Deputy Secretary
Date: April 17, 2026
RE: IMPORTANT: Alert regarding Licensing Misinformation

The Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) was recently made aware of individuals reaching out to providers and claiming that community-based behavioral health providers can pay a fee to expedite their license applications. **BHA does not expedite applications or the licensing process based on individual recommendations or relationships.** If any one contacts you to suggest they can expedite your license application in exchange for money, please be aware that this is misinformation. BHA urges providers to be cautious when hiring consultants or joining organizations which make unrealistic claims regarding expedited timelines for licensing or make any guarantee or promise of licensure.

Similarly, BHA was recently made aware of individuals perpetuating the idea that the licensing portal will be closing at a specific time, and that providers will need to pay to have their applications expedited before the portal closes. Any information regarding a closure of the licensing portal will be sent via provider alert and an update will be provided on the BHA website.

The BHA licensing process remains the same. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received. If an application is closed or returned, you will receive an email indicating the reason why. If your application status portal closes after an application is returned, it is not a system-wide portal closure and you can still submit a new application.

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, please contact the [Consumer Protection Division](#) of the Office of the Attorney General, or your local economic crimes unit.