

Maryland Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Program

Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Notes

June 26, 2026

Participants

Amanda Bowen, *Arundel Lodge*
Adrienne Breidenstine, *Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB)*
Joy Chang, *Cornerstone Montgomery*
Andre Chappel, *Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)*
Carrmen Flag, *SMCHD*
Kristi Garlitz, *HealthPort*
Ann Geddes, *Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD)*
Katie Gilligan, *Sheppard Pratt*
Joe Gutberlet, *Department of Legislative Services (DLS)*
Liza Guroff, *Carroll County Youth Service Bureau*
Cari Guthrie, *Cornerstone Montgomery*
Andrew Guy, *Maryland Department of Health*
Sara Hairgrove, *Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH)*

Mariana Izraelson, *Grassroots Crisis Intervention*
Kayin Love, *Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)*
Dan Martin, *MHAMD*
Morgan Mills, *NAMI Maryland*
Darrin Mitchell, *Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas (VOACC)*
Edouard Niyonshuti, *Maryland Medicaid*
Linda Raines, *MHAMD*
Katie Rouse, *On Our Own of Maryland*
Melissa Schober, *BHA*
Celia Serkin, *Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health*
Rachel Talley, *BHA*
Travis Walter, *Mental Health Association of Frederick County*
Raenell White, *Gaudenzia*

CCBHC Website Review

Kayin led a review of the state's new [CCBHC website](#). The site includes a number of updates and announcements, including dates for all future stakeholder engagement meetings; materials related to Maryland's demonstration application submission; all certification application materials and related deadlines; and other resources and FAQs.

Certification Application Deadline Extension and Expansion Grant NOFO

SAMHSA just released the [CCBHC Expansion Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#), which is due July 17. To provide prospective applicants with additional time to complete both the CCBHC Certification Application and the new NOFO, BHA has extended the CCBHC Certification Application deadline 30 days to August 4. SAMHSA is hosting a pre-application webinar for the NOFO on July 1 at 3pm. [Interested parties can register here](#).

Certification Q&A

Kayin responded to several questions that have been received from CCBHCs in regard to certain aspects of the certification application:

1. **Q:** One of the required submissions in section 8 is the PPS cost reporting documentation. Since we submitted this on May 22, do we need to resubmit everything, or will that submission to M&S suffice?

A: Cost reports for question #8 should be the same information submitted to M&S on May 22nd.

2. **Q:** What are the expectations with Mobile Crisis sections of this application? HealthPort does not currently contract with Mobile Crisis teams as approved by SAMHSA. It was previously indicated that since Maryland is not an any-willing-provider state that the existing mobile crisis teams would be required to participate with CCBHCs. And Maryland does not have the PPS-3, just the PPS-1.

A: We are looking for the applicant to describe their relationship with crisis services, including the ability to serve individuals 24/7, to receive prompt post-acute care, and divert/avert individuals in CCBHCs from acute care settings whenever medically appropriate. Because we recognize that 988 and crisis services are still being strengthened in Maryland, we are asking applicants to describe how they intend to use services in their catchment to ensure appropriate care for individuals.

3. **Q:** This application is much more detailed than the SAMHSA grant application and reporting requirements. Is there a purpose of going into this much detail? The existing CCBHC Grantees have a lot of info in our grant applications. Couldn't we duplicate the SAMHSA NOFO for the State Application?

A: No. The State CCBHC Demonstration application serves a different purpose than the SAMHSA CCBHC grant application and therefore requires a greater level of detail. While SAMHSA grant applications focus primarily on a grantee's proposed activities, project design, staffing, budget, and anticipated outcomes, the State Demonstration application is used to assess whether the state has the infrastructure, policies, financing mechanisms, oversight processes, and operational readiness necessary to implement and sustain the CCBHC Demonstration across participating clinics. The Demonstration involves a Medicaid payment methodology, statewide oversight responsibilities, federal reporting requirements, quality measurement systems, and ongoing compliance monitoring that extend beyond the scope of a SAMHSA discretionary grant. The detailed application allows federal reviewers to evaluate

several critical areas that are not typically addressed in sufficient depth in a SAMHSA grant application.

Although existing CCBHC grantees have already provided substantial information through their SAMHSA planning grant applications and reports, those materials were developed for a different funding and oversight framework. Federal reviewers cannot assume that information submitted under the SAMHSA planning grant program fully addresses the specific Medicaid, financing, and operational requirements of the State Demonstration. In addition, states must provide current and standardized information so that all applicants can be evaluated consistently using the same criteria.

For these reasons, simply duplicating the SAMHSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) would not provide sufficient information for CMS and federal partners to determine a state's readiness to implement, administer, and oversee the CCBHC Demonstration. The level of detail requested is intended to support a comprehensive assessment of implementation capacity, ensure program integrity, and promote successful long-term operation of the Demonstration.

4. **Q:** Sheppard, VOA, and HealthPort worked with M & S & BHA on our PPS and M & S and BHA have an immense amount of data and information on our PPS. Can these three agencies respond in the State Application as a State CCBHC Partner that submitted to the Federal Application for the CCBHC Demonstration with Maryland and therefore not have to do this part of the application?

A: No. We must ensure that fully completed applications are maintained on file for all applicants. While Sheppard, VOA, and HealthPort worked with M&S and BHA on the PPS and M&S may already possess substantial information related to these organizations, we cannot waive this portion of the State Application on that basis.

We cannot require M&S to provide information outside the scope of its contracted activities. Given current timelines and capacity constraints, the State is also unable to review supporting documentation submitted outside the application process. Therefore, applicants must complete all required sections of the State Application.

5. **Q:** I am submitting for more than one site. Do I need to complete multiple applications?

A: Per the licensing department one application listing all contacts information for where services will be offered is sufficient. Applicants will certify by parent company/one entity to be tagged in the payment system with the to-be-created provider type and modifiers as appropriate. No applicant will need to submit multiple applications.

6. **Q:** How should the application and supporting documentation be submitted?

A: The final application submissions should be included as a zip file and sent to Kayin Love. Multiple emails are permitted.

CCBHC Certification Application Review Protocol

Kayin shared the following certification application review process information:

All CCBHC applications are reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of experts in behavioral health, compliance, finance, quality reporting, operations, and federal CCBHC requirements.

Three-Step Evaluation: The review process includes (1) independent reviewer assessments, (2) documentation verification, and (3) a consensus panel review to discuss findings and finalize determinations.

Domain-Based Review Structure: Applications are evaluated across 12 certification domains, including organizational information, staffing, accessibility, scope of services, care coordination, quality management, finance, governance, crisis integration, and compliance.

Pass/Conditional Pass/Fail Ratings: Each domain receives one of three ratings based on compliance with federal and Maryland-specific CCBHC standards and supporting documentation.

Critical vs. Standard Domains: Seven domains are considered Critical (e.g., staffing, accessibility, services, care coordination, quality, finance, and mobile crisis integration). Failure in a critical domain may result in certification denial.

Deficiency Classification System: Deficiencies are categorized as:

Level 1 (Minor): Documentation or clarification issues.

Level 2 (Moderate): Partial compliance requiring corrective action.

Level 3 (Major): Significant gaps or missing operational capacity that result in failure.

Documentation Verification Required: Reviewers must confirm the submission and consistency of required materials such as policies, organizational charts, quality plans, financial statements, needs assessments, licenses, training plans, and crisis agreements.

Key Evaluation Factors: Reviewers assess operational readiness, regulatory compliance, service accessibility, integrated care delivery, financial sustainability, and overall organizational capacity to operate as a CCBHC.

Final Application Determinations: Applications may receive:

1. Certification Approved

2. Certification Approved with Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
3. Certification Deferred
4. Certification Denied

Governance and Accountability: Reviewers must document all decisions, deficiencies, and corrective actions, follow conflict-of-interest requirements, apply standards consistently, and ensure certified organizations remain subject to ongoing monitoring, reporting, audits, and compliance reviews.

Readiness Assessments

Dan reported that readiness assessment site visits have been scheduled with all 5 CCBHCs over the next month. This assessment is a key component of the CCBHC planning process. It is intended to evaluate organizational preparedness independently of the formal certification review to provide support and technical assistance, as necessary.

Copies of the readiness assessment have been sent to the CCBHCs. The CCBHCs do not need to complete anything prior to the site visit. However, to ensure a productive and efficient conversation, CCBHCs are encouraged to review the document beforehand and be prepared to discuss the various questions and topics.

Next Stakeholder Meeting

- Friday, July 31 at 10AM