



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

Aliya Jones, M.D., MBA
Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health
55 Wade Ave., Dix Bldg., SGHC
Catonsville, MD 21228

August 19, 2021

Dear Community Stakeholder,

Over the last several months, Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration and numerous community and state-level partners met in an effort to better define involuntary civil commitment. The group reviewed national best practices on involuntary civil commitment and developed several recommendations to provide greater clarity to Maryland's civil commitment definition.

Three recommendations emerged:

1. Refine the definition of the dangerousness standard in regulations.
2. Provide comprehensive training around the dangerousness standard.
3. Gather additional data elements about civil commitment.

As part of our collaborative process, we are seeking public comment. Please find attached the Involuntary Commitment Report for your review.

We would appreciate your comments as soon as possible since the time frame is short. All comments must be submitted by September 3, 2021, and should be sent to bha.inquiries@maryland.gov.

BHA will utilize your feedback to provide a final report, which will be submitted to the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health by September 30, 2021.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aliya Jones".

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

Attachment