



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

October 31, 2014

Dear Stakeholders,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) ongoing efforts to integrate the State's mental health and substance use disorder services and systems.

The process to integrate services for mental health and substance use disorders emerged from a three-phase, stakeholder-driven process that commenced in 2011. On September 3, 2014 ValueOptions - an Administrative Services Organization (ASO) - was awarded a new performance-based contract for the carve out for mental health and substance use services. This contract was unanimously approved by the Board of Public Works, and DHMH is on track to implement an integrated system on January 1, 2015.

Using our new ASO contract, the Department will be facilitating integrated care across the healthcare service delivery system. ValueOptions will operate as a single point of entry to the public behavioral health system for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. For the first time, the Department will be able to analyze data for the entire public behavioral health system, including Medicaid and non-Medicaid funded behavioral health services. Improved data collection will help the Department monitor and track treatment outcomes. The changes implemented under this contract will lead to quality measures, improved understanding of costs, and ultimately real incentives in medical and specialty behavioral health reimbursement.

The Department will also be raising its expectations of providers to use new and improved pathways for better communications and patient care. Between now and January 1, 2015, DHMH will be sending you additional information about the changes to the public behavioral health system to support integrated care, including tools that will be available to improve care coordination for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. We are excited to offer these new tools to providers and anticipate that providers will integrate these tools into their practice to better serve individuals receiving services within the public behavioral health system.

Additionally, in the coming weeks, DHMH will be informing you of training opportunities provided by ValueOptions. Starting in November, ValueOptions will be conducting forums to introduce stakeholders to ValueOptions staff and to demonstrate the current operation of the system. Webinars will be held in December to further introduce providers to the ValueOptions system. In order to ensure a smooth transition to the new ASO, the Department encourages you to participate in these training opportunities.

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH – TTY/Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us

The Department will notify you when it is time to register with ValueOptions. The more you are able to prepare for a new world of integrated care now, the better prepared you will be for 2015. Be on the lookout for additional communications from the Department regarding behavioral health integration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GJR', with a stylized, cursive style.

Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.
Deputy Secretary
Behavioral Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles E. Lehman', with a cursive style.

Charles Lehman
Acting Deputy Secretary
Health Care Financing