

Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration
Stakeholder Engagement Session 6 – 10.63, Chapter 9

August 15, 2025
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM – Chapter 9

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks (10:00-10:05)

II. Meeting Procedures (10:05-10:10)

III. Status of COMAR 10.63 Regulatory Revisions (10:10-10:15)

- a. Jordan provided an overview of the status of the COMAR 10.63 proposal, including that a **notice to withdraw** the proposal will be published in the Maryland Register on August 22, 2025.
- b. In the near future, MDH is planning to bring comprehensive updates to COMAR 10.63 that will include the general regulations published in the May 16th Maryland Register as well as the forthcoming program-specific regulations.
- c. All formal comments from the May 16th publication will be reviewed, but responses to these comments **will not** be sent.
- d. An opportunity will be provided for preview and dialogue surrounding the next proposal prior to its publication in the Maryland Register.

IV. Stakeholder Feedback on 10.63, Chapter 9 (10:15-11:00)

a. Clarification on penalties for accreditation deficiencies (material v. other)

- i. The definition of “material and egregious violation” includes fraudulent or other behavior which influences or may influence the payment or receipt of money or other property, practices which affect or may affect the health or safety of any individual, or practices which violate or may violate participant rights.
- ii. More information will be forthcoming with the next iteration of this proposal regarding the extent to which accreditation standards will factor in.
- iii. Takeaways from stakeholder dialogue included:
 - 1. Concerns regarding the specificity of the “practices which affect or may affect the health or safety of any individual” element of the definition for “material and egregious violation.”
 - a. BHA will take another look at this definition to ensure that it is aligning with the Department’s intent.

2. Questions regarding the use of the word “may” in the definition and whether this indicates that an organization can have committed a violation without there necessarily being patient harm.
3. Recommendation that “accreditation standard” be removed from the definition for “deficiency.”

V. Stakeholder Feedback on 10.63, Chapter 2 (11:00-11:20)

a. Clarification of requirements for rehabilitation specialists

- i. Takeaways from stakeholder dialogue included:
 1. Clarification that a bachelor’s prepared rehabilitation counselor certified by the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association can have a bachelor’s degree in any field.
 2. Question regarding whether the Department is looking to create a grandfathering plan to allow individuals who are currently practicing but do not have a bachelor's degree to remain in their role.
 - a. The Department is examining how these new rules would impact the current workforce.

VI. Closing Remarks and Next Steps (11:20-11:30)