



## Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates April 2022

- **ASO (Optum Maryland)**

Providers are strongly encouraged to work with their reconciliation managers on outstanding negative balances. Providers can access monthly claims history reports-for all claims processed by Optum on request to [maryland.provpymt@optum.com](mailto:maryland.provpymt@optum.com) or their reconciliation managers. Recoupment for state negative balance amounts will begin on May 20, 2022 for all providers.

- **Bed Registry Update**

- A comprehensive Behavioral Health Provider Directory was launched through 211 Press 1 <https://pressone.211md.org/> in March that provides the general public access to search Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder providers by service type, geographic location, and other filter options.
- An outpatient care coordination pilot is in development to begin before July 1, 2022. The solution involves a dedicated hotline for hospitals to register patients in overstay status coupled with MDH/BHA staff to solve complex cases.

- **BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve**

- The next webinar is on April 14: The Power of Positivity in the Workplace. LaTanya Eggleston, MA. Moderator: Jennifer Greenspun, LCSW-C. [Register here.](#)

- **CAYAS Updates**

- Second session of the Quality Improvement Collaborative (QIC) for the Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) was held on Monday 3/28. Next session is expected to be held in May. More information on MRSS can be found [here](#).
- ACE Master Interface Trainers & Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Trainers on CAYAS staff have continued to facilitate training on ACEs, as well as YMHFA workshops. If interested in scheduling a training, please contact: Chalarra Sessoms ([chalarra.sessoms2@maryland.gov](mailto:chalarra.sessoms2@maryland.gov)) &/or D’Lisa Worthy ([dlisa.worthy1@maryland.gov](mailto:dlisa.worthy1@maryland.gov)).

- **COVID-19 Updates with Public Health Webinar**

This webinar is the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The next webinar is May 6. To be added to the calendar invite, please email [ivajeane.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:ivajeane.smith@maryland.gov) or [steven.whitefield@maryland.gov](mailto:steven.whitefield@maryland.gov).

To join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89345114259>

Or One tap mobile: US: +13017158592, 89345114259# or +19292056099, 89345114259#

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 893 4511 4259. International #s available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89345114259>



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[Or import the iCalendar \(.ics\) files to your calendar system.](#)

- **COVID-19**
  - [COVID-19 Therapeutics Weekly Update 3/25/2022](#)
  - [Maryland Department of Health \(MDH\) Project Firstline](#) aims to stop the spread of infectious disease threats—including COVID-19—by offering free learning opportunities to frontline workers in the healthcare and environmental services fields. Created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Project Firstline’s materials provide foundational knowledge of infection control so that your staff can implement preventive protocols and procedures throughout their workday.
  - A Physician Support Packet for COVID-19 is found at the [Medicaid COVID-19 Provider Update](#) page. It was developed by the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the State’s nine Medicaid managed care organizations. It is a compilation of information and resources to support practices in caring for patients in today’s COVID-centric environment. The packet also provides clinicians with the opportunity to earn up to 3.5 free Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. The CME opportunities have different 2022 submission deadlines, 5/15, and 8/15.
  - To host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on-site with GoVAX Mobile clinic go to <https://governor.maryland.gov/govaxmobile/>, or call 1-855-MD-GoVAX (1-855-634-6829). To register to become a vaccinator through immuNet go to <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/immunet.aspx>.
- **Peer Recovery Specialists**
  - **OTPs** (COVID19 and ARPA FBG Supplements) - Funding allocated to 6 jurisdictions across Maryland (BHSB, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Washington, and Worcester) to expand the availability of peers for individuals utilizing OTP settings. To date Harford Co is the first to hire Peers with the other jurisdictions in various stages of recruiting individuals to available positions.
  - **Crisis Centers** (ARPA FBG Supplement) - Funding allocated to 5 jurisdictions (Frederick, Harford, Howard, St. Mary’s, and Worcester) to expand the availability of peers for individuals experiencing crisis and utilizing walk-in services. To date 3 of the 5 jurisdictions have received award letters with the final two programs anticipating announcements in the near future.
  - **Certification Fund** (SOR and ARPA FBG Supplement) This funding partnership between [MABPCB](#) and BHA is covering the cost for individuals seeking the CPRS credential in Maryland. To date BHA has funded more than 119 individuals to obtain their initial or recertification as a CPRS in Maryland.



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- **Suicide Prevention**

- Dionne Bowie is the new Director of the Office of Suicide Prevention. She will be responsible for the overall management and functioning of the statewide Suicide Prevention initiatives.
- The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is partnering with the Office of Suicide Prevention to assist in providing materials, training, resources, and support for the Maryland School Mental Health Program, serving the 24 local school systems in Maryland.

- **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)** The Behavioral Health Administration is in the process of completing the 2022 PATH Application due to SAMHSA on April 25, 2022. The application will renew more than \$1M for homeless services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Continuum of Care (CoC): The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on March 14, 2022 their award for FY 2021 CoC Competition Awards. Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration was awarded \$5,337,060 for the renewal of 16 grants. To read the press release: [HUD Announces \\$2.65 Billion in Awards to Help People Experiencing Homelessness](#)

- **Public Awareness Activities:**

- Problem Gambling PSA will wrap up on 4/18 through multiple media platforms. The message encourages the viewer/listener to “Have a limit, Stay within it” regarding responsible betting.
- The Dangers of Fentanyl PSA received international recognition with a Silver Award in the category of Public Service & Activism from the MUSE International Creative Awards: <https://museaward.com/winner-info.php?id=222008> The campaign will start again in mid to late April and will include a video, audio, and digital platform.