



Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates

March 2022

- **ASO (Optum Maryland)**

The Optum Maryland ASO continues to work with MDH to make improvements to its system. Providers with questions or issues are encouraged to talk to their reconciliation managers or, if they don't yet have one, to contact maryland.provpymt@optum.com.

- **Bed Registry Update**

- An Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Board has been established and is updated daily to facilitate referrals across hospital systems to expedite more timely access to inpatient psychiatric services. A Care Coordination center has been established to provide a dedicated hotline for emergency department discharge coordinators to contact for referral and placement assistance.

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

- The next webinar is on March 10: Sleep Better by Dealing With Rumination. Alex Chan, PhD. Moderator: Jennifer Greenspun, LCSW-C. [Register here.](#)

- **BHA Behavioral Health Equity Workgroup**

- The Awareness, Outreach and Community Engagement subcommittee will be hosting our next lunch and learn on Friday, March 25 from 12-1:30 p.m. Join us: meet.google.com/qpk-gwcg-rzb or (301) 845-5139 Pin: 161 869 308#

- **CAYAS**

- BHA's Child, Adolescent & Young Adult Services (CAYAS) 18th Annual Conference was held on Tuesday, March 8.
- The Second QRI Statewide training meeting for the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) crisis model is March 28. LBHA/CSAs should reach out to CAYAS or the University of Maryland's Institute for Innovation & Implementation for additional attendance slots. For more information send email to: jlowther@ssw.umaryland.edu

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

This webinar is changing to a monthly schedule, and will be held the first Friday of the month at 10 a.m. The next webinar is April 1. To be added to the calendar invite, please email ivajean.smith@maryland.gov or 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



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Webinar ID: 893 4511 4259. International #s available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd1Us7CPhb>

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

- **COVID-19**

- 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 4.5 free Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. The CME opportunities have different 2022 submission deadlines, 3/15, 5/15, and 8/15.
- [COVID-19 Therapeutics Weekly Update 3-4-2022.pdf](#)
- 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>.

- **Maryland Crisis System Workgroup**

- BHA continues to work with providers to develop/expand urgent care centers around the state to serve as a Designated Psychiatric Emergency Facility (serving as a diversion for EDs for people emergency petitioned).
- Ongoing meetings are being held with the Maryland Medicaid Administration to map-out elements of the State Plan Amendment and discuss the funding structure for crisis services, both mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization walk-in centers.

- **Suicide Prevention**

BHA's Office of Suicide Prevention has developed their second installment of [MD Young Minds](#) text messages to be distributed to subscribers over the next three months.

- **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released the Funding Opportunity Announcement for FFY 2022 Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) funding. This year's PATH application is a **full application** and will cover two years.

PATH provides funding to support screening, outreach and engagement, case management, linkages to behavioral health, housing and supportive services, assistance applying for entitlements using the SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) process, rehabilitation and habilitation services, and one-time only rental assistance to



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prevent evictions. Services are targeted to individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and have a mental illness and/or co-occurring mental illness and substance related disorders.

PATH applications from the Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) or Core Services Agencies (CSAs) are due to BHA no later than **Wednesday, March 30, 2022**.

BHA will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. to review the PATH application process and answer questions. [Register here](#).