



## Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates

October 2021

- **1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**
  - ARPA provides states with an additional 10 percent federal matching rate on home and community-based services between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.
  - ARPA requires states to re-invest these additional federal matching dollars back into the programs.
  - MDH has until March 31, 2024, to complete the reinvestment requirement.
  - The Maryland State Legislature was proactive and passed budgetary language requiring us to spend 75 percent of the reinvestment dollars in a one-time rate increase.
  - Maryland held its stakeholder process during the session on 75 percent of the reinvestment requirement.
  - Although the budgetary language was specific to developmental disability and long-term care services, MDH has committed to honoring the same requirement for community behavioral health services.

Please send your comments/ideas about potential reinvestment strategies/priorities to [bha.inquiries@maryland.gov](mailto:bha.inquiries@maryland.gov) by November 1, 2021.

- **ASO Updates**
  - **Joint Chairmen's Report:**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s6ktXb7TBNgIBUqBET8t7Yt5llidfH68/view?usp=sharing>
  - **Reconciliation and Recoupment Plans for Estimated Claims Payment Period for United Health Group (UHG) / Optum Behavioral Health Providers (Optum)**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hrYelWGCuSitALA9jMc4xIYRDZMtZrMg/view?usp=sharing>
- **BHA Total Quality Management Initiative**
  - Please see attached Mission Statement that guides this work.
  - As part of the Total Quality Management (TQM) process BHA is developing, we are asking our providers to [complete a survey](#) no later than October 15, 2021, that will help us gain a better perspective of:
    - What methods are working well;
    - Which measures or metrics are the most effective;
    - Where there might be needs or gaps; and



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- What systems or tools may be the most effective in monitoring quality service.
- Please complete the survey by October 15, 2021. The link to the survey may be found at: [https://marylanddohmh.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cBEMBICWeedUHak](https://marylanddohmh.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBEMBICWeedUHak)
- **BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve**

The below October webinars are open for registration. All webinars are from 5-6 p.m. Registration for other webinars, which are also on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, are posted on the [BHA/MedChi webinar webpage](#), where webinar recordings and slides are also archived.

- October 14: **“So Often and So Casually”**: Recognizing and Responding to LGBTQ Workplace Microaggressions.

Courtney Resnick, EdD. Moderator: Rowan Willis-Powell.

[Register here.](#)

October 28: **Putting Your Self-Care on a Pedestal.**

David Woods Bartley. Moderator: Hinda Dubin, MD.

[Register here.](#)

- **Block Grant**

BHA submitted supplemental Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) and Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) applications for COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation services on Oct. 4, 2021. Maryland was awarded \$957,036 through the MHBG and \$967,246 through the SABG. The funding will expand activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor infections and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in behavioral health service settings. SAMHSA intends for these funds to provide resources and flexibility for states to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and ensure the continuity of services to support individuals connected to the behavioral health system. BHA disseminated an interest survey to the local mental health and addiction authorities for feedback on jurisdictional needs and possible proposals for funding. All funded activities must be directly related to COVID-19 testing and mitigation.

- **COVID Provider Survey No. 4**

BHA will be releasing the 4th survey to providers asking about consumers/clients’ access to and engagement with services during COVID-19. This survey has helped BHA have a read on consumers’ concerns and barriers and address them accordingly. The survey will be released 10/8/21. We expect to have results by mid-December. The link to the survey is: [SurveyMonkey Powered Online Survey](#), or go to

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Maryland\\_Behavioral\\_Health\\_COVID\\_Fall\\_2021](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Maryland_Behavioral_Health_COVID_Fall_2021)



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- **COVID-19 updates with Public Health Webinars -**

- **Held Every Other Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am**
  
- **Next Webinar: October 15th, 2021**

Session number: 178 873 7910  
Session password: K9Fp2D2hPNP

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To join the training session  
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1. Go to  
<https://mdhealth.webex.com/mdhealth/k2/j.php?MTID=t4fd2d9341eb2218059aa0282490f5fcf>
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Enter the session password: K9Fp2D2hPNP
4. Click "Join Now".
5. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

To view in other time zones or languages, please click the link  
<https://mdhealth.webex.com/mdhealth/k2/j.php?MTID=t3b29336c3d339b497e188863bda1167a>  
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To join the session by phone only  
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To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the training session, or call the number below and enter the access code.  
US Toll:+1-415-655-0001  
Global call-in numbers:  
<https://mdhealth.webex.com/mdhealth/globalcallin.php?MTID=tb860a208e8f914c4dccc90a0a895ae3a>  
Access code: 178 873 7910

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

- MDH continues to work with local behavioral health authorities, and providers to increase vaccination rates among individuals served through the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS). Similar to the previous weeks, we continue to see increases in the number of individuals who have behavioral health disorders becoming vaccinated.
  
- Based on the data obtained on 9/24/2021: 76 percent of individuals 65 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 69 percent are fully vaccinated. 53 percent of individuals 18 years of age and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 46 percent of are fully vaccinated. 52 percent of the population



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eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, (individuals 12 and older) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 45 percent are fully vaccinated.

- Montgomery (61 percent), Howard (56 percent), and Fredrick (50 percent) are the top three counties with their service recipients within the PBHS who are fully vaccinated.
- The below table is for Individuals (Age 12+ As of 09/24/2021) Served in the Public Behavioral Health System Since January 2020 by Vaccination Status.
  - Excluding Out of State Individuals, Out of State Providers, and Individuals with Less than Four Service Dates after November 2020 and those with Only Assessment/Evaluation, Inpatient, Emergency Room, Laboratory Services.
  - Count by Jurisdiction and based on Claims Paid through 09/12/2021.

Jurisdiction	Individuals Served	Partially Vaccinated	% Partially Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated
MONTGOMERY	12,243	775	6%	7,653	63%
HOWARD	3,960	257	6%	2,254	57%
FREDERICK	5,805	349	6%	2,956	51%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	14,310	1,027	7%	7,073	49%
TALBOT	1,126	66	6%	529	47%
BALTIMORE COUNTY	16,709	1,066	6%	7,800	47%
ANNE ARUNDEL	12,821	820	6%	5,798	45%
CARROLL	3,663	198	5%	1,635	45%
CHARLES	2,881	193	7%	1,273	44%
BALTIMORE CITY	52,377	4,164	8%	22,504	43%
CALVERT	1,951	138	7%	831	43%
QUEEN ANNE'S	970	55	6%	408	42%
HARFORD	7,070	395	6%	2,957	42%
SAINT MARY'S	2,593	175	7%	1,069	41%
WORCESTER	2,196	115	5%	905	41%
KENT	829	61	7%	340	41%
WICOMICO	4,355	274	6%	1,659	38%
CAROLINE	1,410	69	5%	521	37%
DORCHESTER	1,787	131	7%	644	36%
SOMERSET	1,188	68	6%	418	35%
WASHINGTON	7,315	357	5%	2,353	32%
ALLEGANY	4,041	205	5%	1,212	30%
CECIL	4,260	240	6%	1,266	30%
GARRETT	969	61	6%	286	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,829</b>	<b>11,259</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>74,344</b>	<b>45%</b>



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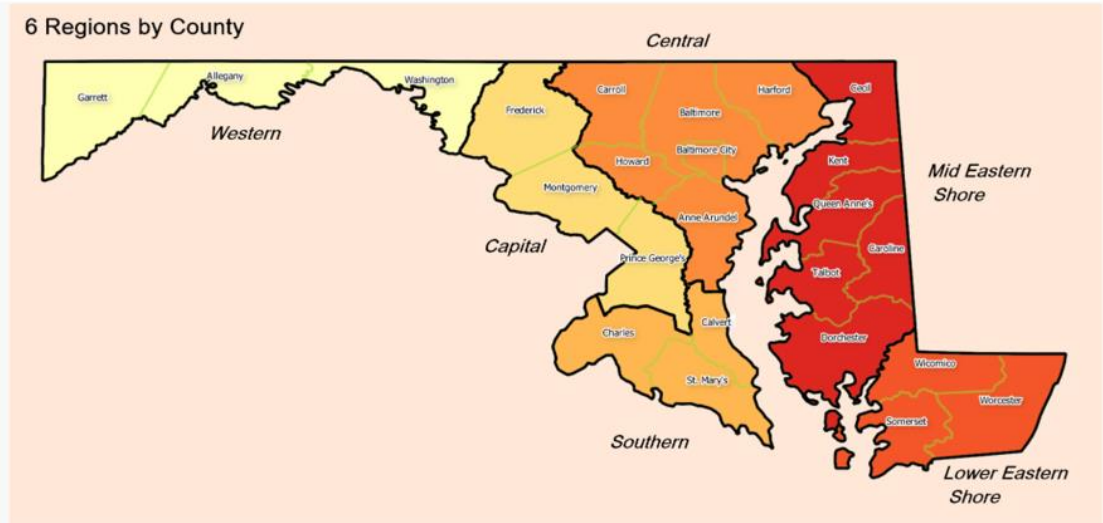
- Clinical Services Division (COVID team and Optum Maryland conducted Incedo Provider Portal (IPP) Webinars on 09/17/21, 09/20/21 and 09/22/21. These webinars targeted all behavioral health providers within the PBHS to provide an overview of the functionality of the IPP for access to client-level COVID-19 vaccination status data and to review strategies for provider use of this data to inform targeted vaccination programs.
- On September 27, 2021, BHA released a Provider Alert through Optum requesting all Residential Programs to complete a COVID-19 Vaccine Information Survey. This includes all Residential Substance Use Treatment Program, Recovery Residences, Residential Rehabilitation Programs, Adult Group Homes, Residential Crisis Programs, Residential Treatment Centers (Adolescents), and BHA Licensed Group Homes (Adolescents). The purpose of this information survey is to obtain vaccine information to support the Department in targeting its resources to support those Residential providers who may require additional technical assistance and support. The survey may be accessed at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CdAxMWQk6B-DcmhVAYZmk0sti92TGX2hznchWer\\_Nt8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CdAxMWQk6B-DcmhVAYZmk0sti92TGX2hznchWer_Nt8/edit?usp=sharing). The survey deadline is October 15, 2021.
- **Crisis System Workgroup**
  - Early September, BHA had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day learning collaborative hosted by SAMHSA and CMS called: *Leveraging SAMHSA and Medicaid Resources to Establish a Comprehensive and Integrated Crisis System of Care*. Various crisis systems from around the country showcased the development of their crisis services. Particular areas of focus included: Breaking the cycle of emergency department use; developing learning collaboratives; utilizing data & standardized assessment tools; and using a software platform for coordination, dispatch and tracking with mobile crisis teams and walk-in centers. BHA has been invited to continue participating in a Regional Forum with state leaders from PA, DE, DC, VA, and WV to discuss implementation of the SAMHSA/CMS recommendations.
  - On September 13, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the award of \$15 million in planning grants to 20 states. Maryland was selected to receive \$800,365 in funding to support expanding community-based mobile crisis intervention services for Medicaid beneficiaries. The planning grant provides funding to develop, prepare for, and implement qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services under the Medicaid program. The grant will help Maryland integrate community-based mobile crisis intervention services into the Medicaid programs which is a critical component of establishing a sustainable and public health-focused crisis system.
  - On September 28th, the Maryland Crisis System Workgroup hosted the Best

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Practices/Standardization subcommittee.

- As the crisis system development continues to evolve, regional services will be developed across Maryland in six regions: Capital, Central, Lower Eastern Shore, Mid-Eastern Shore, Southern and Western. The regions were selected based on MDH Facilities Master Plan, MDH IBIS Health and HSCRC Initiatives:  
<https://ibis.health.maryland.gov/GeoResource/MarylandRegions.html>  
<https://health.maryland.gov/Pages/Master-Facilities-Plan.aspx>



- **Dangerousness Standards**  
 Public comments about the Involuntary Civil Commitment Report and its three recommendations were received. Thank you.
- **Multi-Agency Opioid Overdose Death Prevention Strategy Team**
  - Will be exploring how to address increases in prescription opioid overdose deaths  
<https://beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2021/09/OOCC-Q2-2021-Quarterly-Report.pdf>
- **Racial Disparities Task Force**



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The Racial Disparities in Overdose Task Force continues to work to identify factors contributing to accelerating overdose deaths in the Black community. We are pleased to invite people who are interested in supporting this work the opportunity to participate in one of four workgroups.

The four workgroups align with our overarching goals:

1. Identify focused, data-informed interventions (programs/policies) as well as seek out innovative pilot/emerging projects that will reduce the disparity in overdose fatalities in the Black community which has been showing escalating rates of death despite statewide interventions.
2. To recommend programs/policies that will decrease factors contributing to the disparity in overdose deaths that reflect and include community voice/insights and address the structural determinants of drug use.
3. To determine how to increase acceptance of evidence-based practices for opioid use disorders in affected communities using a tailored approach
4. Considering historical inequities, ensure equitable allocation of resources to combat the opioid epidemic

If you are interested in participating in a workgroup, please reply by **October 12, 2021**, to Marianne Gibson at [Marianne.Gibson@maryland.gov](mailto:Marianne.Gibson@maryland.gov). In your email, please rank your preference for participating in each group.

- **Suicide Prevention- Annual** Suicide Prevention Conference was held on October 6th.
- **Workforce Development:**
  - The Office of Workforce Development and Technology Transfer oversees the Substance Use Disorders Workforce Expansion (SUDWE) agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore. The three MSW programs in Maryland (UMB, Salisbury and Morgan State University) reported graduating 30 MSW students in Spring 2021 (Cohort 1). Preliminary data demonstrates over 60 percent received an employment offer from the place of last internship. Full data report on Cohort 1 being finalized.
  - The SUDWE program developed three new curriculums for the MSW students: Treatment Planning and Documentation, Telehealth for SUD Settings, and Harm Reduction and Stigma. Three additional courses are in development for Fall 2021.
  - The Office of Workforce Development and Technology Transfer oversees Workforce Expansion initiatives with the four HBCUs. All four schools recently returned to hybrid model of instruction Fall semester 2021. All have recently identified students receiving scholarships and specialized training in evidence-based practices.