

## Section 5                      Other Child Health-Related Services

### F. PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM (PMHS)

In 2014, the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration merged to become *Behavioral Health Administration* (BHA).<sup>1</sup> The agency, along with 19 local Core Service Agencies delivers a full range of community public mental health services to Medicaid participants in each local jurisdiction of Maryland. In addition, services are also provided to individuals, who because of the severity of their illness and their financial need, qualify to receive state-subsidized services. BHA and the Core Service Agencies are assisted in their responsibility to manage the public mental health services by *Beacon Health Options Maryland*,<sup>2</sup> an administrative service organization (ASO), which operates under a contract with BHA. The ASO authorizes services, provides utilization management, management information, claims processing, and evaluation services. A Primary Care Provider (PCP) can deliver behavioral health services if the treatment falls within the scope of the provider's practice, training, and expertise.

**Maryland Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (B-HIPP)** is a free service for PCPs caring for patients with mental health needs from infancy through the transition to young-adulthood. It provides support to PCP through four main components: telephone consultation, continuing education, resource and referral networking and social work co-location. For more information, refer to B-HIPP website at [www.mdbhipp.org](http://www.mdbhipp.org) at or call **855-632-4477**.

When a child needs specialty mental health services beyond the scope of primary care, refer them to the **Maryland Public Mental Health System at 1-800-888-1965** (consumers and providers).

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/Index.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://maryland.valueoptions.com/>