



Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates Report on September Activities 2022

- **BHA's Welcomes New Chief of Staff: Jake Whitaker** Contact email jake.whitaker2@maryland.gov
- **BHI Integration** - The BHI learning collaborative session held on the 16th of September and the topic covered was communication framework for improved partnerships and collaborations.
- **Crisis System Development: Maryland Crisis System Workgroup**
 - BHA/Medicaid Administration participated in SAMHSA Region 3 meeting in Pittsburgh. Three takeaways include the need for a high level of coordination between MA/BH and community stakeholders. Funding will need to be braided to include multiple sources. Crisis systems need to be inclusive of law enforcement for quick turn-around and serving people who are high utilizers of the systems.
 - 988 is fully operational in Maryland as of July 16, 2022. Maryland was awarded funding by SAMHSA on April 15, 2022 to address the expected increase in 988 contact volume after the launch. A required grant activity is to implement and oversee a quality improvement plan to ensure that Maryland's Lifeline crisis centers meet key performance indicators as outlined by Vibrant Behavioral Health and SAMHSA. Maryland's 988 Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (Committee) will evaluate the implementation of the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) 988 Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and make recommendations for quality improvements. The Committee's membership includes representation from key 988 stakeholder sectors and the first meeting was held on September 20, 2022. The committee will meet quarterly.
- **PRP - The PRP** work group continues to meet to provide support and oversight for PRP programs and services in the State.
- **Public Awareness Activities** - Continue to promote the new 988 Lifeline through digital platforms. The Spanish ads and the ads targeting youth are the highest performers.
- **State Opioid Response (SOR)**
 - BHA's SOR III grant application was approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the amount of \$51,384,298 for the budget period of 9/30/2022 to 9/29/2023.
 - The new initiatives in this grant include:
 - 988 expansion for opioid and stimulant concerns
 - Contingency management
 - Harm Reduction Coordination for Midshore Behavioral Health
 - Employment Coordinator at A.F. Whittset Center in Kent County
 - Recovery Friendly Workforce Pilot
 - SBIRT in Crisis Stabilization Units
 - Continuing initiatives for this grant include:
 - crisis walk-in stabilization centers
 - crisis beds



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- safe stations
- Medication for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD) in Detention Centers
- Recovery Housing for adults and adolescents
- Adolescent Clubhouses
- Medication Adherence Technology
- Harm Reduction and Naloxone Distribution
- Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion
- Harford crisis hotline
- Public Awareness
- SBIRT statewide training, primary care, and fidelity & quality assurance
- Parenting Project
- Evidence-based practices for youth and adolescents

Peers and MA Reimbursement

- In August, the Department hosted an initial Provider Feedback Opportunity with a targeted group of stakeholders. An open Provider Feedback Opportunity has been scheduled for October 28, 2022, and all impacted Providers are encouraged to attend. More information will be provided when available.
- A Registered Peer Supervisor webinar has been developed to provide program supervisors with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are required to become certified as an RPS in Maryland. Having an RPS on staff will be a requirement for all programs submitting claims for Certified Peer Recovery services through MA effective September 2023.

Upcoming Events

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

- November 10: **Approach to Insomnia.**
Beverly Fang, MD. Moderator: TBD.
[Register here.](#)

- **BHA Opioid Overdose Prevention Clinical Advisory Team**

- This webinar occurs on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. To be added to the calendar invitation, please email steven.whitefield@maryland.gov.

- **Public Health Webinar**

This webinar is the first Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. To be added to the calendar invitation, 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):
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Webinar ID: 893 4511 4259. International #s available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89345114259>

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