

Behavioral Health Policy

Rates, Workforce, and Quality

BHSB 2026 Policy

Forum

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Nicole Graner, LCSW

Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy



CBH is a membership-driven trade association representing community-based behavioral health providers across Maryland. Our members deliver mental health and substance use disorder services in every region of the state and across the full continuum of care.

Services represented by CBH members include:

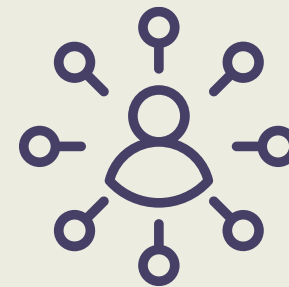
- Intensive, in-home services & Targeted Case Management (1915i)
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Mobile Crisis Teams and Crisis Services
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs
- Residential Rehabilitation Programs
- Outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- School-based behavioral health services
- Supported employment services
- Residential Crisis Services (RCS)
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

CBH's Role in Policy & Systems Change



LEARN

- Read every bill introduced in Annapolis and regulation proposed in Maryland Register to evaluate impact on behavioral health services
- Monitor national and federal developments through the National Council on Mental Wellbeing



CONNECT

- Peer-to-peer support and education through more than 13 listservs and learning communities
- Broker access to leadership, operational and clinical training resources



AMPLIFY

- Coordinate and facilitate implementation of innovations with members
- Support structured outreach to federal and state legislators on member priorities

Reimbursement Rates

*Quality care requires deliberate, ongoing
investment*

- Behavioral health rates are not automatically adjusted
- Increases require deliberate legislative action
- Flat funding ≠ stability
- Nearly 20 years of flat funding weakened the public behavioral health system
- HOPE Act stabilized the system — mandates have expired

Workforce and Quality

Workforce = Quality

Infrastructure

- Hiring and retention challenges persist
- Training and supervision require time and resources
- High turnover disrupts continuity of care
- Workforce instability directly affects quality and access

CCBHCs

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

- Federally defined model for community behavioral health care
- Clear expectations for access, coordination, and quality
- Comprehensive mental health and substance use services
- Data reporting and accountability
- Payment aligned with scope and responsibility

***Quality care requires deliberate, ongoing
investment***

CCBHCs in Maryland

- Maryland has received a federal CCBHC planning grant
- Planning and Stakeholder engagement are underway
- Obligated to apply for the demonstration for FY27
- Several CCBHCs currently operating under federal expansion grants
- Timing gap exists between grant expiration and demonstration start

***Bridge funding supports continuity of care and service
stability***

Thank you!

Nicole Graner, LCSW
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Public Policy

Nicole@MDCBH.org
www.MDCBH.org



COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF MARYLAND