

Standing Updates

○ **COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE**

BHA continues to work in partnership with MDH, the Local Authorities, and providers to increase the COVID-19 vaccination uptake rates among individuals served through the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS). As of 02/13/2023, 6% of individuals participating in the PBHS ages 5-12 have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of that 5-12 age group population, about 55% of those individuals are fully vaccinated. About 6% of individuals ages 12-18, have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 58% are fully vaccinated. Of the population ranging in age from 18-65 years of age, 59% are fully vaccinated, and 6% are partially vaccinated. In the 65+ population, 81% of individuals are fully vaccinated, and 5% have received at least one dose. Howard and Montgomery counties have the highest rates of vaccination across all populations. Howard county has an average percentage of 74.25% who are fully vaccinated and Montgomery County with an average of 78% who are fully vaccinated.

● **Crisis System Development: Maryland Crisis System Workgroup**

- On 2/1/23, BHA participated in the monthly SAMHSA Region 3: 988/Crisis System meeting. Dr. Jean Bennett from SAMHSA provided updates about the national landscape - Building a collective vision for 988 as a shared opportunity for behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and communities. The group discussed how law enforcement and other justice system partners are developing training, policies, and practices to operationalize 988 in their communities.
- The monthly Crisis Services Provider meeting was held on 2/2/23. Topics of discussion included informing providers about the launch of two Centers of Excellence ~ CIT, and Building Healing Behavioral Health Systems (Trauma).
- On 2/21/23, BHA hosted the Maryland Crisis System Workgroup. Presentations included an overview of the accreditation and licensing process for crisis services, development of a crisis data system, the need to establish outcome measurements and the implementation of 988. The next meeting will be held on 4/18/23.
- Proposed Crisis Regulations were published on 2/24/23 (listed below). Public comments will be accepted through March 27, 2023. They may be sent to Jourdan Green, Director, Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination, Maryland Department of Health, 201 West Preston Street, Room 512, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-6499, or email mdh.regs@maryland.gov. A public hearing has not been scheduled. Proposed Crisis Regulations:
 - a. COMAR 10.09.01 - Maryland Department of Health Medical Care Programs (Medicaid) Behavioral Health Crisis Services
 - b. COMAR 10.09.16 -Medicaid Behavioral Health Crisis Regulations (Purpose: Implement behavioral health crisis services) Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs and Services

c. COMAR 10.63 -Purpose: Implement behavioral health crisis services:

<https://2019->

[dsd.maryland.gov/MDRIssues/5004/Assembled.aspx#_Toc127884604](https://2019-dsd.maryland.gov/MDRIssues/5004/Assembled.aspx#_Toc127884604)

- The Office of Criminal Justice and Crisis Services is working on completing 110 COA-SOW agreements amounting to over \$27M in awards for crisis services.

- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stakeholders Meetings**

BHA's Clinical Services Division, Office of Treatment Services has completed a series of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stakeholder Meetings that were held regionally across Maryland during the months of January and February of 2023. There were approximately 172 participants across the five (5) meetings. As a next step, we will be summarizing the responses. Lastly, we will develop strategies to promote equity and inclusion and address identified gaps in services to the deaf and hard of hearing population, stakeholders, consumers, and family members.

- **MA Reimbursement for CPRS Services** in Community-based Outpatient programs (Type 50), Opioid Treatment Programs (Type 32), and FQHCs (Type 34) will be implemented in June of 2023. To support this pending implementation, BHA and Maryland Medicaid will be hosting another Provider Meeting on May 02nd from 12p - 2. This meeting will provide an overview of the regulations to support this project and offer Providers an opportunity to ask questions to both BHA and MA in preparation of this roll out. Providers operating Community Based Outpatient Programs (Provider Type 50), Opioid Treatment Programs (Provider Type 32), and Federally Qualified Health Center Programs (Provider Type 34) are encouraged to [register](#) for the upcoming Provider conversation.
- <https://MACPRSReimbursement.eventbrite.com>

- **Public Awareness:** The Office of Public Awareness released a new PSA to coincide with Problem Gambling month. The PSA reminds those who gamble to have a plan, stick to a budget, and to take a break. The PSA is available in both English and Spanish:
English - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv-FMTsMiY8>
Spanish - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA2KTtGksZ0>

- Tuesday, **March 14th was National Gambling Disorder Screening Day**, a movement designed to support providers in the identification of gambling disorders. Maryland research studies suggest a 17% prevalence of co-occurring disorders (e.g., alcohol use disorder, anxiety, depression) among those who are at risk or meet criteria for gambling disorder. Some cases of gambling disorder go undetected. Studies show untreated gambling disorder can lead to financial, emotional, social, occupational, physical harms, and may be a relapse risk factor. For these reasons, all behavioral health providers were strongly encouraged to participate in National Gambling Disorder Screening Day, by using the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screening (BBGS) tool, [Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen \(BBGS\)](#) consisting of just three questions that help identify potential gambling-

related problems. A “yes” response to any single item indicates potential gambling-related problems and the need for additional evaluation.

1. During the past 12 months, have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?
2. During the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled?
3. During the past 12 months did you have such financial trouble as a result of your gambling that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends or welfare?

A “yes” response to any one of those questions indicates potential for gambling related problems, and the need for additional evaluation. On Screening Day:

1. Begin having a conversation with your clients about gambling.
 2. Screen every client with the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen.
 3. Discuss the results.
 4. Provide resources.
- Maryland offers an array of free resources and services for problem gambling. Services include a **24/7 call/text/chat helpline: 1-800-Gambler**, peer support, family peer support, and no-cost treatment referrals for individuals or family members/loved ones affected by gambling disorder. Help seeker services are available at www.helpmygamblingproblem.org For more detailed information regarding screening, or provider related resources such as training, data, or information on how to become a no-cost treatment provider see the [Problem Gambling Screening Guide](#) visit www.mdproblemgambling.com or call 667-214-2120.

○ **Suicide Prevention Monthly Newsletter**

BHA’s Office of Suicide Prevention provides suicide prevention training, resources, and technical assistance to advance the development of comprehensive suicide prevention and early intervention service system for individuals, families, groups, and communities. As part of their activities, they provide a Monthly Newsletter, called the Scoop.

If you would like to receive these monthly newsletters, please click on the link below to join the contact list.

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=prydusebb&p=oi&m=prydusebb&sit=6yvkxibqb&f=65eecf8-ac4c-48b2-ab4a-600fba6c4c57>

● **SAMSHA Grants - SOR III**

- BHA applied for **\$51 million in State Opioid Response (SOR) III**, Year 2 Continuation federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in February 2023. This funding will continue to support prevention, treatment and recovery services targeted to individuals who have opioid or stimulant use disorders.



Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health Monthly Updates Report on January – February 2023 Activities & Upcoming Events

- BHA applied for a **\$1.3 million grant from SAMHSA (due March 20, 2023)**. This grant is for the **Projects for Assistance in Transitions from Homelessness (PATH) program**. This program is a federal formula grant disbursed annually from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This funding will continue to support outreach, case management, screening and diagnostic services, housing assistance and referrals to job training and other supportive services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Recurring Events (Webinars, Conferences, Meetings, etc.)

- **BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve**
 - April 13: **Meditations for Easing the Mind and Giving It Happiness and Kindness.**
Amy Hatfield, MS, RD, LD.
Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1wCfjF4PQZCt09aeXBKdQA

- **BHA Opioid Overdose Prevention Clinical Advisory Team**
 - 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**
 - April 7th 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): 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

Webinar ID: 893 4511 4259. International #s available:

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

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

- **Save the Date, BHA's Annual Women's Conference on June 22, 2023**