



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

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September 1, 2022

Dear Behavioral Health Partners:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) obtained a July 1, 2022 start date for all of the MOUs. They provide funding support to our local behavioral health authorities (LBAs) who work to keep public behavioral health programs available and operational to those we ultimately serve, the residents of Maryland. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to process the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs).

MDH Office of Contract Management and Procurement (OCMP) is working on a series of training presentations to provide a better understanding of MOUs and the procurement process. This information will support the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) in being more effective and efficient when completing MOUs and engaging in the procurement process. Additional training information and more details will be released in this fall.

September 6 is Overdose Awareness Day. I encourage your participation in the activities that are planned throughout Maryland during this day and throughout September which is **National Recovery Month**. This time of the year is designated to support those who have recovered and continue on their recovery journey. We are sharing the events held by the local jurisdictions and advocacy groups on our BHA Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SUDMD/> or [\(20+\) #recoverymonth - Explore | Facebook](#). Some of these activities are also listed in the attachment accompanying this letter.

As the school year soon begins, we recognize that families (adults, adolescents, and/or children) may be feeling anxious, worried, or even fearful. I thank our behavioral health community for being responsive and proactive in providing tools that support students and families to cope. It is important to reassure our youth that it is okay to have worries and fears.

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September 1, 2022

Giving children, adolescents, and other loved ones the opportunity to express these emotions may help to de-escalate their concern(s). Helping people find solutions, or just listening to their concerns, may help them to cope better. SAMHSA has some helpful resources to address these issues at [Warning Signs and Risk Factors for Emotional Distress | SAMHSA](#) and [Understanding Child Trauma | SAMHSA](#).

In honor of Labor Day, on behalf of the BHA, I thank all of you for your valued commitment to the Behavioral Health system of Maryland. Due to your excellent work, Maryland residents have an increased chance of accessing public behavioral health services.

Your valued contributions continue to support BHA's vision: "To achieve excellent health outcomes and decrease avoidable health disparities for individuals across the life span by advocating for equity in social determinants of health, which advances an equitable behavioral health system that is seamless and integrated throughout the continuum of care."

Again, thank you and have a safe and happy holiday.

Respectfully,



Lisa A. Burgess, M.D.
Interim Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health

Attachment