

Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition
2018 Candidate Questionnaire

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1. What would you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorder? Continue integration of mental illness care and addictions treatment. Build on the personal experiences shared in the Project Purple initiatives to build understanding of the interrelation of addictions and mental illness. Perhaps renaming behavioral health with brain health with corresponding education
2. What strategies would you employ to reduce overdose deaths and suicides? Increase beds for medication assisted treatment and longer inpatient days. Education and increased awareness including Trauma Informed Care and Mental Health First Aid for all teachers, health and human services professional. The Governors Commission on Suicide has been reauthorized and will include a definition of universal precautions for mental health .
3. What specific initiatives would you propose to better address the prevention, early intervention and treatment needs of children and youth living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders? Build on the existing resources of Health Families and the nurse visitation with newborns to assist new families. Work through the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission to provide incentives to community initiatives and Local Management Boards for innovative programs including safe schools and or communities. Mental Health First Aid and trauma

Informed Care continuing Ed for all health and human resources providers and teachers.

4. Maryland's older adults are the fastest growing demographic with unmet mental health and substance use disorder needs. How would you address the behavioral health needs of this population? For the Eastern Shore increase opportunities for Medical Adult Day Care. Review reimbursement and consider adjustments. As health Care delivery shifts to the community ,use care coordinators or nurse managers with Community Health workers to follow and manage care. Work with insurance toward better coordination.
5. What would you do to increase the availability of mental health and addiction providers in the state? With the tuition assistance for Community Colleges and other colleges passed during this passed this year, there may be an opportunity to steer students to this direction. Improve salaries in low income areas. Expedite credentialing.
6. How would you ensure health insurance plans are in compliance with existing behavioral health parity laws and educate consumers about their rights to equitable mental health and addiction coverage? This is a conversation for the office of health Care quality, Insurance commission ,the Medicaid Administration .
7. What would you do to ensure that low income individuals with mental health and substance use disorders have access to safe, stable and affordable housing? Build into the continuity of care and safe communities initiatives. Recommend inclusion or provision in local Comprehensive plans
8. What strategies would you employ to address the overrepresentation of individuals with behavioral health needs in Maryland jails and prisons? As treatment increases for existing population and job readiness is instituted with opportunity for employment. Drug Courts are diverting many into treatment in lieu of jail.
9. Given the continuing rise in demand for mental health and substance use disorder services, what steps would you take to move Maryland toward a

system with true on-demand access and comprehensive behavioral health crisis response services? As the plan is developed and put in place ,engage the entire health delivery system including insurers to determine and manage cost. A comprehensive crisis response can decrease unnecessary hospital ER visits but is not included in the discussion.