

Carol Krimm, Delegate, District 3A

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1. There is no doubt a stigma does affect individuals who seek treatment for behavioral health issues and in too many cases reduces their willingness to seek help. We should have school counselors readily available to assist school age children to deal with behavioral health issues. As they grow older they may not be apprehensive and be more inclined to seek assistance for behavioral health. In order to achieve this goal we need more school counselors and reduce the ratios of student to counselors.

I believe more public education about seeking behavioral health treatment is helpful in reducing the stigma in the general population.

2. As a member of the General Assembly, I am working with my colleagues to find innovative ways to reduce overdose deaths. Each session we pass legislation to assist local health officials and law enforcement to address this issue that continues to increase at alarming rates. More treatment facilities and funding in the budget are required to provide the necessary government response to this crisis.
3. See answer to question 1 about providing more school counselors. Also more education for parents and school professionals to spot addiction in children.
4. I work with advocates for the aging in the Frederick community. We continue to review programs that will assist the aging population that do not have resources to have a reasonable quality of life. Increasing Meals on Wheels as a way for the homebound to have daily human contact and nutritious meals. Also it provides a means for people who deliver the meals to identify changes in the individual mental health.
5. As a member of the Appropriations Committee we continue to increase program funding for addiction treatment. Creating an incentive for students to be trained in addiction counseling may be helpful in having more counselors available.
6. Providing an analysis of health insurance coverages to ensure mental health/behavioral health coverages are available in policies is necessary. The state should work with insurance carriers to make sure these coverages are available at part of the policies sold within the state. At the very least the insurance provided to state employees should have adequate coverages for these issues.
7. I serve on the Joint Committee to End Homelessness. Affordable housing is a huge challenge for Maryland. First, people who are in danger of losing their housing should be assisted to keep

them in their present housing if possible. Second, government should work with the private sector to build affordable housing using federal tax credits.

8. The Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) set Maryland on a new direction to not use our prisons as the de facto facility housing many people who are mentally ill and committed minor crimes. However in order for JRA to be properly implemented, there needs to capacity in treatment facilities for the mentally ill that are in court system. To date, there is not enough capacity.
9. Offering funding to local government to establish treatment facilities in the communities is a strategy. Having treatment available close to home may encourage people suffering with addiction issues to seek treatment.