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## Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition 2018 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition respectfully requests that you respond to the questions below on issues related to mental health and substance use disorders. The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition is a diverse mix of nonprofit organizations working to ensure that individuals with mental health and substance use disorders have access to quality care and services that meet their needs.

To educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis, complete candidate responses will be published verbatim on the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition website (<http://keepthEDOORopenmd.org/>) on October 16, 2018. To meet our publication deadline, your responses must be received no later than October 12, 2018. If you do not respond, the publication will state Did Not Respond.

Questions and responses will be used in compliance with all IRS rules for 501(c)(3) organizations.

Please respond to each question in 200 words or less, and submit completed questionnaires to Dan Martin via email at [dmartin@mhamd.org](mailto:dmartin@mhamd.org).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and for taking the opportunity to communicate your views on behavioral health issues and policy.

<b>Candidate Name</b>	
<b>Office Sought</b>	
<b>District</b>	
<b>Campaign Contact</b>	
<b>Campaign Contact Phone</b>	
<b>Campaign Contact Email</b>	

1. What would you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders?

2. What strategies would you employ to reduce overdose deaths and suicides?

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?
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?
5. What would you do to increase the availability of mental health and addiction providers in the state?
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?

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?

8. What strategies would you employ to address the overrepresentation of individuals with behavioral health needs in Maryland jails and prisons?

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?