



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

November 25, 2014

Dear Stakeholders,

January 1, 2015 marks a new era for the integration of behavioral health and other healthcare services in Maryland. We are writing to tell you about these changes. This is a great opportunity for every clinician in the state to recognize the need for providers to work together across disciplines to take care of Maryland patients with behavioral health disorders, including mental illness and addiction.

### **A Single Financing Structure for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Medicaid**

Starting January 1, Medicaid will pay for both mental health and substance use disorder treatment through an Administrative Services Organization. This organization will function as a single point of entry for both providers and consumers within the Public Behavioral Health System. This will reduce the administrative burden to providers as the new organization will oversee the authorization of services; data collection and claims submission; and the payment of claims.

### **A Single Phone Number, Available 24 Hours a Day, for Consultation and Referral**

This number is (800) 888-1965. Beginning January 1, this number will ring at a new Engagement Center, which will be staffed both by Maryland based clinicians for clinical questions as well as administrative personnel to help with financing issues. The Engagement Center can help with many aspects of care coordination, including clinical consultation, care plan development, and information sharing.

### **Greater Access to Pharmacy Data for Behavioral Health Providers**

Starting January 1, the Administrative Services Organization will make pharmacy data available to treatment programs. The ASO has created an integrated care management system named Spectrum that will allow a physician in a mental health or substance use disorder program to quickly look up whether one of her or his patients is on blood pressure medication, medication for seizures or other conditions. Such knowledge promotes continuity of care. Programs interested in learning more about how to use this feature can call (800) 888-1965 and ask to speak with a provider services representative.

### **Tools for Screening for Depression, Addiction, and Other Conditions**

Starting January 1, on the ValueOptions website – <http://www.maryland.valueoptions.com> – all health care providers in Maryland can access simple and effective tools to screen for depression, addiction, and other

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH – TTY/Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us)

behavioral health disorders. Earlier diagnosis and referral can lead to better health outcomes for all the conditions, including medical conditions, experienced by patients. We are excited to offer these new tools to providers and anticipate that providers will integrate these tools into their practice.

Prior to January 1, we encourage you to participate in ValueOptions training opportunities. These trainings will better prepare you for behavioral health integration. A training schedule may be accessed at [http://maryland.valueoptions.com/whats-new/ Provider-Training.pdf](http://maryland.valueoptions.com/whats-new/Provider-Training.pdf). Should you have any questions regarding these training opportunities, please contact Sharon Jones, at ValueOptions, Maryland at 410-691-4055.

DHMH requests that you direct any questions you may have regarding behavioral health integration to the Department at [dhmh.bhintegration@maryland.gov](mailto:dhmh.bhintegration@maryland.gov). Responses to frequently asked questions are updated by the Department on a biweekly basis and may be found at <http://maryland.valueoptions.com/whats-new/Frequently-Asked-Questions-FAQ.pdf>  
Sincerely,



Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.  
Deputy Secretary  
Behavioral Health



Mona K. Gahunia, D.O  
Chief Medical Officer