

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: FY 2021 Medicaid Provider Rates

Dear Governor Hogan,

The signatory organizations and the families and individuals we serve want to thank you for your leadership during this crisis and for the support you have provided the health care community throughout your Administration. We applaud these efforts and request your continued support by ensuring that the Fiscal Year 2021 budget contains the mandatory 4% rate increase designated for community behavioral health, developmental disabilities, complex medical needs, and senior care services.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many providers in the behavioral health, developmental disability, medically complex, and senior care communities were at a crossroads. Due to chronic underfunding coupled with rising costs, providers were either operating in the negative or with very small margins. Unlike other businesses that can pass added costs on to consumers, these programs do not have this option. The Marylanders they serve are either on Medicaid, which reimburses at a set rate that must be used to cover all expenses; receive subsidies through the State grant program; or pay out-of-pocket on fixed incomes and cannot afford higher fees.

As is the case with hospitals and other essential service providers, these professionals have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unclear how these community organizations will withstand this challenge and whether the provider network will be sufficiently robust to meet a steady or increased demand for critical services after this crisis has passed. Providing the full 4% rate increase in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget is essential for the ongoing viability of these provider organizations and for the health and safety of the individuals they serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a workforce crisis that was near a breaking point *before* the outbreak. Adequate service rates are essential to maintaining skilled staff in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis and in ensuring there will be sufficient staffing levels to serve our friends and family members post-crisis.

We appreciate the budget challenges the State will face going forward and understand that there will undoubtedly be reductions in current budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2021. However, we collectively request that as you move forward with your budget evaluation and decision making there remains a commitment to maintain the full 4% rate increase for these essential services. It is not only the viability of the provider community that is at stake but also the State's ability to continue to reduce unnecessary emergency department and inpatient utilization throughout the pandemic and beyond. This public health emergency has made it clear that critical health care services must not be taken for granted or jeopardized by lack of sufficient funding. Seniors, people with complex medical needs and developmental disabilities, and those who rely on behavioral health services, will have nowhere to turn if budget cuts decimate these vital services.

Sincerely,

Abilities Network  
Adventist HealthCare Behavioral Health and  
Wellness Services  
Alzheimer's Association of Greater Maryland  
Appalachian Crossroads  
Archway Station  
Ardmore Enterprises  
Arrow Child & Family Services  
Arundel Lodge  
Aspire Wellness Center, Inc.  
Athelas Institute  
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate  
Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc.  
Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition  
Behavioral Health Partners of Frederick  
Behavioral Health System Baltimore  
Bello Machre  
Benedictine  
Board of Child Care  
CALMRA  
Calvert County Behavioral Health  
Caroline Center  
Carroll Co. Youth Svc Bureau  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Charities of Baltimore  
Center for Children  
Center for Social Change  
Cerentiy, Inc.  
Channel Marker  
Charles Co. Freedom Landing  
Chesapeake Care Resources  
Chesapeake Center  
Chesapeake Home Health Care  
CHI  
Chimes, Inc.  
Community Connections  
Community Living, Inc.  
Community Options  
Community Residences  
Companions, Inc.  
Compass  
Cornerstone Montgomery  
Corsica River Mental Health Services  
Creative Options, Inc.  
Crossroads Community  
Delmarva Community Services  
Eastern Shore Behavioral Health Coalition

Maryland Association of Adult Day Services  
Maryland Association of Community Services  
Maryland Coalition of Families  
Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging  
Maryland Community Connection  
Maryland Inclusive Housing Corporation  
Maryland Psychiatric Society  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
Maryland Senior Citizen Action Network  
Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine  
Maryland-National Capital Homecare  
Association  
MedSource Community Services  
Mental Health Association of Maryland  
Mentor Network  
Mid Shore Behavioral Health  
Mid-Atlantic Human Service Corp.  
Mosaic Community Services  
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Maryland  
National Association of Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug  
Dependence, Maryland Chapter  
NCIA  
New Horizons Supported Services, Inc.  
NorthStar Special Services, Inc.  
Omni House, Inc.  
On Our Own of Maryland  
Parker Psychiatric Services Inc  
Pathways, Inc.  
PDG Rehabilitation Services, Inc.  
Penn-Mar Human Services  
People Encouraging People  
Powell Recovery Center  
Pressley Ridge  
Progress Unlimited, Inc.  
Prologue, Inc.  
Providence Center  
Psychotherapeutic Treatment Services, Inc.  
Ray of Hope  
Regeneration Project  
Rehabilitation Systems, Inc.  
Resource Connections Inc.  
Richcroft  
San Mar Children's Home  
Service Coordination, Inc.  
Shared Support Maryland

EBED Community Improvement  
eMerge  
EPIC  
EveryMind, Inc.  
Families First Counseling  
Family Services Foundation  
Family Services, Inc.  
Flying Colors of Success  
Forward Visions  
Friends Aware  
Gallagher Services  
Garrett County Lighthouse  
Goodwill Ind. of the Chesapeake (STEP)  
Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley  
Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social  
Work  
Harford Belair Community Mental Health Center  
Head Injury Rehabilitation and Referral Services  
Hope Health Systems  
Horizon Foundation of Howard County  
Humanim  
Inspired Options Inc.  
Institute for Behavior Resources  
Itineris  
Jewish Community Services  
JSSA  
Jubilee Association of Maryland  
Key Point Health Services  
L.I.F.E. Inc.  
La Clinica del Pueblo  
Langton Green  
Latter Rain  
Leading By Example, LLC  
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of  
Maryland  
Life Renewal Services  
LifeSpan Network  
Linwood Center  
Lourie Center  
Lower Shore Clinic  
Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute  
Maryland Addictions Directors Council  
Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid  
Dependence

Sheppard Pratt Health Systems  
Shura  
Somerset Community Services  
Southern Maryland Community Network  
Spectrum Support  
Spring Dell Center  
St. Peter's Adult Learning Center  
Star Community  
Sunrise Community of Maryland  
Target Community  
The Arc Baltimore  
The Arc Carroll County  
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region  
The Arc Maryland  
The Arc Montgomery County  
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region  
The Arc of Frederick County  
The Arc of Howard County  
The Arc Prince George's County  
The Arc Southern Maryland  
The Arc Washington County  
The Center for Life Enrichment  
The Children's Guild  
The Coordinating Center  
The Harford Center  
The League for People with Disabilities  
The Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition  
The Mental Health Center of Western MD  
The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys,  
Maryland/DC Chapter  
The Prince George's County Provider Council  
The Rock Creek Foundation  
Therapeutic Living for Families  
Thrive Behavioral Health, LLC  
UMMC - Div. Community Psychiatry  
Unified Community Connections  
United Community Supports of Maryland  
Upper Bay Counseling & Support Svcs  
Vesta, Inc.  
Volunteers of America/Chesapeake  
Way Station, Inc.  
Wicomico Co. Health Dept.  
WIN Family Services, Inc.  
Work Opportunities Unlimited

cc: Boyd K. Rutherford, Lieutenant Governor, State of Maryland  
Robert R. Neall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health  
David R. Brinkley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Budget and Management  
Diane M. Croghan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office