

**Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs),
Core Service Agencies (CSAs)
and
Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Access**

March 2021



in partnership with



Objectives

- Provide an overview of the LBHA/CSA/LAA role in Maryland
- Describe the specific LBHA/CSA role in relation to RTC treatment access
- Explain how to access local LBHA/CSA representatives



LBHAs, CSAs and LAAs in Maryland

General Role and Activities

What is a LBHA/CSA/LAA?

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)

Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)/
Core Service Agency (CSA)/Local Addictions Authority (LAA)

Behavioral Health Providers

LBHA: Core Service Agency & Local Addictions Authority

- **LBHA** includes the designated **Core Service Agency (CSA)** and **Local Addictions Authority (LAA)** for the jurisdiction
- **CSA** is responsible for mental health services
- **LAA** is responsible for substance use prevention and treatment services
- Both are responsible for planning, managing and monitoring public behavioral health services at the **local level**

LBHAs/CSAs/LAA Role

- **Ensures** access to a full range of quality behavioral health services
- **Advocates** for policies to advance prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery
- **Collaborates** with system partners improve access to care
- **Strengthens** communities by supporting behavioral health and wellness

Funding & Structure of Service

Fee-for-Service

- Services paid for by insurance (Medicaid, Medicare)
- Limited services for people who are uninsured or underinsured, etc.
- Network of private non-profit providers

Grant-Funded

- Grant-funded programs provide services not reimbursable by insurance
- Meant to fill gaps in the “fee-for-service” system
- Pilot or specialty programs
- Services for people who are uninsured or underinsured, etc.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Financial Eligibility**
 - Medicaid (MA)
 - Medicare (MC) – limited behavioral health benefit
 - Uninsured – eligibility criteria
- **Medical Necessity Criteria (Mental Health)**
 - Common for behavioral health services
 - Usually based on diagnosis and functioning (e.g., hospitalizations)
- **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria (Substance Use)**
- **Administrative Services Organization (ASO)/Optum Maryland**
 - Manages behavioral health care for people with Medicaid or those who are uninsured

LBHAs and CSAs in Maryland

Role and Activities related to RTC
Treatment Access

Residential Treatment Center

- **Only type of out-of-home residential program** for youth which the LBHA/CSA may access
- **Cannot** be lead agency for youth in custody of DSS or DJS
- **May** be lead agency for youth ages 13.2 and below at time of admission, if no need for DSS/DJS involvement (St. Vincent's Villa ONLY)
- **May** be lead agency for youth ages 13-17 when youth has a non-public IEP

Important Reminders

- LBHAs/CSAs fulfill an *administrative role*
 - Review all RTC applications to determine if Medical Necessity Criteria is met
- LBHAs/CSAs fulfill a *lead agency role*
 - Provide *technical assistance* to the Treatment Team
 - Sharing of expertise, knowledge and instruction
 - Consultation
 - Navigation of local systems/supports

Important Reminders

- Custody/Guardianship is maintained by the legal guardian at all times**
- LBHAs/CSAs may provide assistance *without* meeting or talking with a caregiver
- *Some* LBHAs/CSAs obtain additional grant funding to provide supplemental supports above and beyond Technical Assistance*

Important Reminders

- LBHAs/CSAs must be notified *by LDSS* if VPA is discontinued
 - Discuss prior to discontinuation of VPA
 - Discuss potential impact on service access (e.g. no TGH)
 - Discuss shift in Lead Agency activities (Case Management to Technical Assistance)



LBHAs, CSAs and LAAs in Maryland

How to Access Child, Adolescent and
Young Adult (CAYA) Representatives

CAYA Directory

- Maintained by the Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities (MABHA) Child, Adolescent & Young Adult (CAYA) Sub-Committee
- Updated regularly
- Shared for distribution before this meeting

The “Big Takeaway”:

**Call your jurisdiction’s LBHA/CSA
CAYA Representative**

We are here to help!



Questions?

Contact Us

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
Child, Adolescent and Young Adult (CAYA)
Services Unit

Chief, Child and Adolescent Services:

Caroline Jones, cjones@maryland.gov

Contact Us

Maryland Association of Behavioral Health
Authorities (MABHA)

Child, Adolescent and Young Adult (CAYA)

Sub-Committee Co-Chairs:

Heather Dewey

hdewey@baltimorecountymd.gov

Angela Gray

agray@harfordmentalhealth.org