



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

July 6, 2026

Dear Maryland Behavioral Health Provider Community,

Thank you for the essential work you do every day to serve Marylanders living with mental health and substance use disorders. Your commitment to providing high-quality behavioral health services is fundamental to the health and well-being of our communities, and we greatly value your continued partnership.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH), through Maryland Medicaid and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), is launching a Behavioral Health Rate Study as required under the Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017. This study represents an important step in modernizing Maryland's behavioral health reimbursement methodology by developing a better understanding of the costs associated with delivering high-quality behavioral health services.

The rate study will be conducted in phases. The initial phase through early 2027 will focus on three provider types:

- Outpatient Mental Health Clinics (OMHCs)
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRPs)
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Level 2 programs, including Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs)

Providers participating in this initial phase will receive additional communications from MDH and our contractor, Myers and Stauffer LC, with detailed information regarding data collection, timelines, technical assistance, and participation expectations.

To protect provider confidentiality, all cost information will be submitted directly to Myers and Stauffer. Individual provider submissions will remain confidential. MDH will receive only aggregated, de-identified information for purposes of evaluating reimbursement methodologies.

We recognize that participating in a cost study requires time and effort. Accurate provider participation is essential to ensuring the study reflects the realities of delivering behavioral health services throughout Maryland. Robust participation will strengthen the quality of the analysis and better inform future reimbursement decisions.

Over the coming weeks, Myers and Stauffer will provide participating providers with training webinars, technical assistance, and opportunities to ask questions throughout the process.

Additional information, including timelines and implementation materials, will be distributed shortly.

This study is an important milestone in our ongoing work to strengthen Maryland's behavioral health system. We appreciate your partnership and your continued commitment to serving Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perrie Briskin".

Perrie Briskin,
Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Rachel Talley".

Dr. Rachel Talley,
Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health