MidAtlantic
# Business Group on Health

MABGH Executive Director John Miller recently joined other prominent stakeholders in testifying in favor of Maryland Senate Bill 101/House Bill 48, which expands reimbursement from an existing Collaborative Care Model pilot program to be statewide in primary care settings that provide health care services to Program recipients. Also testifying in person were representatives from the Mental Health Association of Maryland, MedChi/ the Maryland Medical Society, Concert Health, the Maryland Coalition of Families, the National Path Forward, and Shatterproof.

MABGH joins a group of stakeholders to testify in favor of a bill expanding the Collaborative Care model in Maryland.

The bill sponsors were Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Heather Bagnall.

Most people will never seek or receive behavioral health treatment from a specialty provider. Instead, most individuals with mild to moderate depression and anxiety first seek to address these concerns with their primary care provider, a situation that is increasingly common given an ongoing and persistent behavioral health workforce shortage.

Unfortunately, behavioral health treatment delivered in primary care settings is often suboptimal, with individuals poorly diagnosed and treated, or not identified at all.

The Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) helps. Validated in over 90 randomized controlled trials, CoCM is a patient-centered approach for integrating physical and behavioral health care in primary care settings. The model has been shown to improve health outcomes and save money, mostly via a reduction in unnecessary hospitalization and higher intensity levels of care.

The weight of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program will speed adoption of the Collaborative Care Model, which will lower healthcare costs, but more importantly, ease the burden of behavioral health conditions for employees and their dependents.
SB 101/HB 48 (passed) will unleash the potential of this model in Maryland by expanding CoCM coverage to Medicaid recipients. Already covered by Medicare and commercial health insurers, this new service expansion will incentivize primary care practices to offer CoCM broadly across their patient populations, ensuring this best practice in care integration is equitably available to all citizens in need.

MidAtlantic Business Group on Health
PO Box 0866 Greenbelt, Maryland 20768 Ph. (301) 552-5530
john.miller@mabgh.org