

PROVIDER ALERT

Public Comment on Involuntary Commitment Workgroup Report

August 31, 2021

Target Audience: All Behavioral Health Providers

Dear Community Stakeholder,

Over the last several months, Maryland's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and numerous community and state-level partners met in an effort to better define involuntary civil commitment. Now, we want your input no later than **September 3, 2021**.

This MDH-organized group reviewed national best practices on involuntary civil commitment and developed several recommendations to provide greater clarity to Maryland's civil commitment definition.

Three recommendations emerged:

1. Refine the definition of the dangerousness standard in regulations;
2. Provide comprehensive training around the dangerousness standard;
3. Gather additional data elements about involuntary civil commitment.

As part of our collaborative process, we are seeking public comment. Please find the report available for your review at <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/Index.aspx>.

Since the overall time frame for responding is short, we would appreciate your comments as soon as possible. All comments must be **submitted by September 3, 2021**, and should be sent to bha.inquiries@maryland.gov.

BHA will utilize your feedback to provide a final report, which will be submitted to the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health by September 30, 2021.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue.

Please visit maryland.optum.com for provider resources, online training, and more information.