

Health Care Transformation
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June 1, 2021

Ms. Eileen Fleck
Chief, Acute Care Policy and Planning
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Eileen.Fleck@maryland.gov

**Re: Request for Formal Public Comment, draft of State Health Plan for Facilities and Services:
Acute Psychiatric Hospital Services COMAR 10.24.21**

Dear Ms. Fleck:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft of State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: Acute Psychiatric Hospital Services COMAR 10.24 21, on behalf of Johns Hopkins Health System ("JHHS").

JHHS expresses its appreciation to the MHCC staff for its review of and attention to the Acute Psychiatric Hospital Services Chapter. JHHS recognizes that the most recent iteration of the chapter is reflective of thoughtful consideration of the provision of acute inpatient psychiatric services in the State of Maryland.

JHHS wishes to commend the MHCC for its inclusion of Policy 6, which calls for, "An increase in the funding and provision of mental health services by the private sector and federal and State government is necessary to meet the needs of Maryland's population adequately." JHHS believes that greater resources for mental health services and expansion of subspecialty care is vital to improving access for patients that represent vulnerable and at-risk populations within our state. Further, JHHS acknowledges that funding increases are crucial in order for providers and the State of Maryland to offer community-based services. The presence of community-based services allows for timely discharge and reduces readmission rates, thereby increasing inpatient capacity for patients with the most acute need for psychiatric services.

Sincerely,

Nicki McCann
VP Provider/Payer Transformation
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