

**MHCC Psychiatric Services Clinical Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Discussion Guide for November 20, 2019**

**II. Recommendations for Changes to CON Regulations**

Evaluation of the Need for Acute Psychiatric Services

1. Is there an outcome measure or are there multiple outcome measures that you think would be useful for evaluating whether the need for acute inpatient psychiatric services is being met for the population in a given region in Maryland?
2. What amount of boarding of psychiatric patients is acceptable, based on reasonably serving the best interests of psychiatric patients?
3. Should the CON application review process be used as an opportunity to identify and document shortcomings in the continuum of mental health care in a health planning region or jurisdictions where the population to be served resides?
4. How should the identification of shortcomings in the health planning system affect approval of additional inpatient psychiatric beds, such as an inability to discharge patients due to a lack of appropriate community supports?
5. Should a CON applicant be required to address the cost-effectiveness of providing additional resources along the continuum of mental health care that would likely directly reduce the need for additional acute psychiatric beds in the health planning region for the proposed project?

Requirements for New Providers

6. Should providers be required to engage in outreach or develop partnerships with community providers to address the mental health needs of the population instead of only providing acute psychiatric services?
7. Should the establishment of a new psychiatric hospital or unit for adults (not just expansion) be tied to also providing beds to another special population that is underserved in a region, if applicable?

Standards for Geographic Access

The State Health Plan chapter for psychiatric services states that acute psychiatric services should be available within 30 minutes of one-way travel time by car, under normal driving conditions for 90% of the population in a health service area, except for the adolescent and pediatric populations in Western Maryland. In Western Maryland, acute psychiatric services should be available within 45 minutes of one-way travel time by car for children and adolescents.

8. Are the current geographic access standards acceptable or are changes needed?