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SB0460 WORKGROUP UPDATE

During the June 17th meeting of the SB 460 Workgroup, the decision was made to identify existing organizations and programs that are currently performing some or all of the consumer assistance services that would be provided by CHAP. Gathering this information will provide the Workgroup members with the information necessary to resolve certain of the issues, particularly to scope, that were raised with respect to the CHAP Bill and that are among the points that the Workgroup was established to address.

To that end, members of the Workgroup and members of the public are invited to identify in writing those organizations and programs operating in the State which currently provide some or all of the consumer assistance services that are listed under the definition of “Consumer Assistance Services” on page 3 of the CHAP Bill as it passed the Senate. Those services include:

1. *Connecting consumers to treatment for mental health and substance use disorders;*
2. *Communicating and coordinating with health coverage plans regarding coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment (particularly self-funded and governmental plans) on behalf of consumers;*
3. *Assisting consumers to select and enroll in health coverage plans that include the mental health and substance use disorder benefits that are most suitable for them;*
4. *Assisting consumers to pursue contractual, administrative, and/or judicial complaints and actions against health coverage plans – including providing legal representation to the consumers in dealings with the health coverage plan and in proceedings on behalf of the consumer before administrative agencies and the courts;*
5. *Providing consumer education regarding coverage for treatment for mental health and substance use disorders under health coverage plan and under state and federal law;*
and
6. *Providing a toll-free helpline and an online portal for consumers and providers acting on behalf of consumers to receive assistance obtaining treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.*

Written submissions that identify organizations and programs performing some or all of the above-mentioned services should include the following information:

1. With respect to the organization or program, please provide the name and address of the entity and the name and contact information for an individual associated with the entity who can provide information about the entity and its relevant services;
2. A summary of the relevant services provided by the entity;
3. Known limits on the scope of the entity's relevant services (e.g., focused on a specific geographic region, limited resources or budget);
4. Known plans of the entity to expand its relevant services; and
5. The source of funding for these relevant services.

Please email your responses to kory.boone@maryland.gov by 4:00 p.m. on July 15, 2022. Feel free to forward this email to any agency or organization you think would provide the group with helpful information. Written responses will be posted publicly and shared with all Workgroup members. We will schedule a meeting in late July to summarize and discuss the information provided.