



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

December 10, 2014

Dear Health Officers,

It has been previously communicated that starting July 1, 2015 grant funds covering ambulatory services for the uninsured are moving to the Administrative Services Organization (ValueOptions). This communication is being sent to inform you that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) revisited this decision and decided that grant funds will not move to ValueOptions on July 1, 2015. Rather, these funds will remain in the jurisdictions' budgets through fiscal 2016.

DHMH decided to delay the movement of these funds due to the expression of significant concerns regarding access to ambulatory services if grant were moved to the Administrative Services Organization. Forthcoming grant award letters for fiscal 2016 will reflect the inclusion of funds to purchase or provide ambulatory services for uninsured individuals needing substance-related disorders assessment and treatment. Grant award letters will be sent to jurisdictions on December 11, 2014.

While funding will remain with local jurisdictions, the decision to report data to ValueOptions is not affected by this delay. As the Department previously indicated, as of January 1, 2015 all admission and discharge, treatment, and recovery data is to be submitted to ValueOptions. There are some changes to the data requirements from existing SMART requirements. Information about this workflow process will be sent out shortly.

Also, in keeping with changes in our service delivery system, the State's expectations of the role of the local addictions authority (LAA) are evolving. The LAA's role will expand to focus on jurisdiction system development, management, and monitoring. This includes investigating complaints about providers, enhancing existing contract monitoring functions, and developing a provider network that meets the treatment needs of the community. The Core Services Agencies (CSAs) are the local authority for mental health services and already perform these system functions.

To assist the LAA with developing the infrastructure to support these functions, the Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) sent a notice of supplemental funding to every jurisdiction on November 20, 2015. This funding is intended to support personnel who can investigate complaints, monitor correction of deficiencies, problem solve difficult patient situations, and assist the BHA and Value Options in placing individuals in need of treatment. We request that the LAA discuss with the CSA the most efficient use of resources in the jurisdiction and seek CSA input into skills, policies and procedures necessary to carry out these functions. LAAs from multiple jurisdictions may also collaborate to maximize resources.

I look forward to working with you during this transition.

Sincerely,

Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.
Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health