



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

Appropriations Health and Social Services Subcommittee
& Senate Budget & Tax Health and Human Resources Subcommittee March 1, 2021

Budget of the Behavioral Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

The Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine (MDDCSAM) is grateful to Governor Hogan for early implantation of the reimbursement rate increases for behavioral health services that had been scheduled for July 2021.

The rate increase is sorely needed due to the pandemic-related rise in the prevalence of mental health.

They are also needed due to severe ongoing problems in payments from Optum “with no end in sight.” A fundamentally new approach is needed to address these payment problems; providers have no confidence that meaningful progress is being made.

Unrelated to the pandemic, opioid overdose death rates continue to rise. Third quarter data from the Maryland Department of Health shows a 14% increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths in 2020, over the same period the year before.

Also unrelated to the pandemic, many Marylanders continue to struggle with perennial challenges of inadequate access to behavioral health services.
