

February 14, 2019

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043
Attn: Jennifer Sager

Dear Councilmembers:

Howard County Code Bill No. 13-2018 created the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board (the Board). The Board has been drafting its bylaws and has identified two technical revisions to the Howard County code that deals with the Board. These changes are included in CB7-2019.

The first change concerns the ex officio members of the Board. At the request of the Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), the ex officio Administrator of the Office of Aging and Independence, DCRS member of our Board will be replaced in the code with the Director of the DCRS or the Director's designee.

The second change concerns the quorum for voting on the Board. The Board has 28 members and the quorum is set at fifteen in the Howard County code. Since it is possible that there will be vacancies on the Board, for example, there are currently five vacancies, we recommend that the quorum be changed to a majority of members.

Thank you very much for considering these revisions.

Sincerely,



James Filipczak, Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board Chairperson



Janet Edelman, Local Behavioral Health Advisory Board Secretary



Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Bureau Director, Behavioral Health Local Behavioral Health Authority