

The Mental Health Association of Maryland

For more than 100 years, the Mental Health Association of Maryland has worked to address the mental health and substance use needs of Marylanders of all ages, particularly those disadvantaged and marginalized. We are committed to ensuring every Marylander's fundamental right to quality behavioral health care through advancing public policy, monitoring service quality, providing training and education, leading systems change, and advancing new evidence-based treatments.

ADVOCACY

The Mental Health Association of Maryland's public policy team works with the Maryland General Assembly, members of Congress, government officials, and other stakeholders to affect laws and policies at the state and federal level. MHAMD chairs a number of coalitions working to address many mental health and substance use needs, including:

[The Children's Behavioral Health Coalition](#) is comprised of consumer advocacy groups who work in partnership to identify service gaps, highlight negative service trends, and develop an agenda to address the concerns specific to children and youth with mental health and substance use disorders.

[The Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition](#) is a coalition of behavioral health providers, consumer, family, and advocacy organizations whose priority is to ensure that all Marylanders have access to quality behavioral health services.

[The Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging](#) provides an education and advocacy forum for people interested in aging and mental health issues. Consumers, family members, caregivers, and professional and government organizations work together to improve the quality and accessibility of behavioral health services for older adults.

[The Mental Health and Criminal Justice Partnership](#) seeks to ensure better treatment and support for individuals with behavioral health needs who have become involved with the criminal justice system.

[The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use](#) is an innovative employer-led initiative designed to systematically and measurably improve behavioral healthcare nationwide. The MidAtlantic Business Group on Health and MHAMD have partnered to carry out the five national priorities, together with payers, providers, employers, and other stakeholders in the MidAtlantic region.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

MHAMD's community outreach and education provide Marylanders of all ages with information to improve their understanding of behavioral health, increase knowledge of effective interventions, reduce stigma, and strengthen pathways to care.

[Childrens Mental Health Matters!](#) is a statewide education campaign to raise awareness of children's mental health needs and enhance outreach efforts to families and communities.

[The Healthy New Moms Campaign](#) works to raise awareness of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and offer support and resources to moms, families, and providers across the state.

[Older Adults Vibrant Minds](#) brings important education to the community and professional networks regarding late life mental health.

[Vibrant Aging: Peers Program](#) provides community education on aging and brain health, volunteer support for residents age 50 or older who are experiencing challenges with emotional wellness, and training for peer support specialists on aging and behavioral health.

TRAININGS

[Mental Health First Aid® Maryland](#) is a public education national certification course designed to teach individuals, professionals, businesses, and community members the skills necessary to respond with care and genuine support to an individual experiencing a mental health or substance use concern or crisis.

[Engage with®](#) is a highly interactive, comprehensive skills-based training program geared towards increasing awareness and developing the skills necessary to engage in healthy, caring relationships with older adults in both professional and family settings.

SERVICES OVERSIGHT

MHAMD has ensured quality of care for Marylanders through rigorous programs of services oversight for nearly a century. Today we accomplish this goal through the [Consumer Quality Team](#), a consumer-run program that conducts announced and unannounced site visits to community behavioral health programs and facilities for the purpose of immediate quality improvement.

PUBLICATIONS

The Mental Health Association of Maryland provides free informational resources, which are currently available by download or by mail. [Go here to access our free publications.](#)

CRISIS RESOURCES

Call 9-8-8 to get connected to free, 24/7 support from a trained counselor at the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.](#)

FOR FREE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, VISIT: [MHAMD.ORG.](#)

