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GREGORY M. DERWART  
Deputy Commissioner



**Maryland**

INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

200 Saint Paul Street, Suite 2700, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Direct Dial: 410-468-2471 Fax: 410-468-2020

1-800-492-6116 TTY: 1-800-735-2258

[www.insurance.maryland.gov](http://www.insurance.maryland.gov)

### **SB0460 WORKGROUP**

#### **NOTICE FOR PUBLIC INPUT: MIA Concept Draft**

At the request of Senator Augustine and Delegate Cullison during the fifth meeting of the SB0460 Workgroup held on October 25, 2022, the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) drafted an outline of a mental and behavioral health ombudsman program to be housed as an independent unit within the MIA. The draft proposal contemplates housing a centralized navigator program for mental and behavioral health treatment assistance within the MIA as an independent division of the MIA. The program would be run by an executive director with support services provided by the MIA. The program would also include separate independent program staff and an advisory council, along with the ability to engage with external consultants and experts. The primary goal of the program would be to:

- Establish a centralized entry point for people needing assistance;
- Connect them with a contracted navigator to assist them to connect to care and coverage and to be a single, continuous source of assistance and support through the process;
- Track each case to assure that the consumer is connected with available care and real time assistance with coverage and payment issues; and
- Utilize existing resources (navigators, educators, advocates, and government agencies) to meet consumer needs

The program also includes an oversight, reporting and data collection function to ensure that the services are being provided and the duties of the program are being fulfilled.

During the sixth meeting of the SB0460 Workgroup held on November 22, 2022, Commissioner Kathleen Birrane reviewed the draft proposal with the working group.

The draft proposal can be found [here](#).

The workgroup is seeking input on this proposal heading in advance of the seventh and final meeting on Tuesday, December 8th 2022.

Please provide written comments to Andrew Tress ([Andrew.tress1@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.tress1@maryland.gov)) by **Monday, December 5th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**