



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

AUGUST 2018

Health Care Services for Marylanders with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Thank you for responding to the Maryland Parity at 10 questionnaire for gubernatorial candidates. The Maryland Parity at 10 Campaign is made up of organizations and providers from around Maryland representing substance use disorder and mental health provider and consumer organizations, consumer and family members directly affected by mental health and substance use disorders, and health care providers. These include: Addiction Policy Forum – Maryland Chapter, Addiction Resources Connection, Inc., Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate, Community Behavioral Health Association, Institute for Behavior Resources, James Place, Inc., Legal Action Center, Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland Heroin Awareness, Maryland Hospital Association, Maryland Psychiatric Society, Mental Health Association of Maryland, NAMI-MD, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Maryland, On Our Own of Maryland, Inc., and Powell Recovery Center, Inc.

The Maryland Parity at 10 Campaign has united advocates across the state to achieve full enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (the Parity Act) and state parity laws. This October marks the 10th anniversary of this landmark federal legislation, which mandates that health insurance plan standards for substance use and mental health benefits be comparable to and no more restrictive than the standards for other medical benefits. The Parity Act is designed to end historical discrimination in health insurance for persons with mental health and substance use disorders and extend access to life-saving treatment.

Please submit completed questionnaires by September 24, 2018 to Ellen Weber via email at eweber@lac.org or by mail to: Ellen Weber, Legal Action Center, 810 1st Street, N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002.

To educate voters impartially and on a nonpartisan basis, complete candidate responses, including questions that are not answered, will be shared on the websites of the following organizations and used in compliance with all IRS rules for 501(c)(3) organizations: Community Behavioral Health Assoc., Institute for Behavior Resources, Inc., James Place, Inc., Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland Heroin Awareness, Maryland Psychiatric Society, NAMI-MD, and Powell Recovery Center, Inc.

Candidate Name:

Office Seeking:

Campaign Address:

Campaign Phone:

Campaign Email:

Parity at 10 Candidate Questionnaire

Political Party:

Contact Name:

Contact Email:

Please answer the following questions relating to mental health and substance use disorders:

1. How would you ensure that health plans offered in Maryland are in compliance with existing mental health and substance use disorder parity laws?
2. How would you educate consumers about their rights to equitable mental health and substance use disorder coverage?
3. What steps would you take to make it easier for consumers and providers to appeal insurers' denial of treatment and alert state officials to potential violations of mental health and substance use disorder parity laws?
4. What would be your key strategies to reduce overdose deaths and suicides in Maryland?
5. What strategies do you propose to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders?
6. How would you increase the availability of and ensure equal access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment for all residents of Maryland, including youth, adults and persons in the criminal justice system?

7. What would you do to increase the availability of mental health and addiction providers in Maryland?