

Maryland Psychiatric Society Report to Area 3  
March 2019

Member Services:

Our executive committee met with the Behavioral Health Administration to work on the implementation of our new Extreme Risk Protective Order law, and to encourage BHA to address vacancies in psychiatric leadership within that agency. MPS also participated in a work group to address insurer requirements for preauthorization.

We encouraged our members to participate in the ABMS Vision Initiative Commission public comment period on their draft report for the future of maintenance of certification.

Advocacy:

We had a very successful Advocacy Day with enough members to allow us to divide into teams to address both the House and the Senate. Resident and fellow members were involved, as well as some members who were new to our legislative committee.

Our legislative committee reviewed more than 65 bills and took positions on 37 of them. We supported bills to improve standardized screening for mental disorders in correctional facilities, to improve suicide prevention for veterans, to reduce prior authorization requirements, and to expand our pilot project for outpatient commitment to the entire state. We support initiatives to increase access to care through telepsychiatry, and to enforce mental health parity. We opposed a bill to allow physical therapists and psychologists to “certify” patients for medical marijuana, and for the use of medical marijuana to treat opioid use disorders. We opposed a bill to legalize assisted suicide, and a bill that would have criminalized the use of ECT for minors.

Education:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society is sponsoring three annual awards for residents and ECPs: a poster contest and best paper award for RFMs, and a best paper award for an early career psychiatrist.

Our November psychopharmacology conference was very successful, and there will be a March 30<sup>th</sup> showing of the documentary “The Ripple Effect.” In May there will be a risk management seminar on the topic of management of the violent patient.

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative  
Maryland Psychiatric Society