Behavioral Health in Crisis

Maryland’s Hospitals Are the Safety Net

1 in 5 Marylanders suffer from mental health and substance use disorders

Length of stay for behavioral health patients increased by 3% from 2017 to 2018

Behavioral health inpatients stayed on average 13 days more than needed due to barriers getting to suitable care sites

1/3 of patients arrive in the ED by law enforcement

42% of behavioral health patients in an ED were delayed reaching the next level of care; many needed no hospital care at all

Behavioral health-related emergency department (ED) visits continue to rise even as all other visits fall

Support legislation to expand the definition of emergency facilities where police can take emergency petition patients for evaluation.

Source: MHA research on general hospital experience with behavioral health patients, 2018-19