



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
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Announcement: Local Behavioral Health Authority Integration:

The Kent County Health Department in close collaboration with Mid Shore Behavioral Health Inc is pleased to announce the integration of the County's Local Addictions Authority (LAA) with the existing Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA). This action occurred in response to the Maryland Department of Health's mandate for local systems management integration, announced in June 2018. Born from a vision for quality through seamless oversight, this announcement represents the culmination of extensive efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local Public Behavioral Health system.

Since 2018, the mid-shore region has been working to enhance collaboration between local Health Departments, serving as the Local Addictions Authorities (LAA), and Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. serving as the regional Core Service Agency (CSA). The mid-shore region has supported a Mid Shore Counties Local Systems Management Integration Workgroup, formed in 2018, and in 2020, moved to a formal regional behavioral health planning and leadership team, the Mid Shore Planning Collaborative (MSPC). These leadership groups have worked closely to strategically plan to move towards a local behavioral health integrated structure since 2018, and formally have included local integration as a priority goal in the Community Behavioral Health Plan since 2021.

Kent County represents the pilot for integration efforts in the mid-shore region, formally moving to this system on July 1, 2024. The leadership of the Health Department and Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. are excited to announce this implementation of a unified Local Behavioral Health Authority structure for Kent County.

Effective July 1, 2024, Kent County Health Department's Local Addictions Authority responsibilities have been transitioned to Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. KCHD will continue to provide SUD treatment services and assist with oversight. Ms. Jennifer McCready will move into a new leadership role at KCHD as the Director of Community Addiction Services. In this capacity she will focus on the County's non-clinical prevention, response and support services.

Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. representing the Local Behavioral Health Authority for the county, serves as the local authority at the pleasure of the Behavioral Health Administration for oversight of both mental health and substance use services for Kent County. Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. will support the following activities for Kent County:

1. Regulatory and Oversight Needs
2. Data Collection and Management
3. Needs Assessments and Network Adequacy

4. Legislative Advocacy
5. Grant Management and New Procurement
6. Behavioral Health Provider Relations and Quality
7. Kent County Behavioral Health Service Expansion
8. Kent County Behavioral Health Coordination and Communication

The opportunity for Kent County and Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. to embark on this collaborative leadership is exciting. This new partnership hopes to continue to strengthen the behavioral health services supporting the residents of the county and our neighboring communities.

For additional support and information or questions, please contact: Kathryn Dilley, MSBH Executive Director, at kdilley@midshorebehavioralhealth.org or William Webb, Kent County Health Officer, at William Webb william.webb@maryland.gov