

**Behavioral Health Action Team – February 10, 2017**

**PROPOSED REVISIONS HSMP ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR 2017: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

*Advocate for financial incentives and regulatory changes to better recruit and maintain behavioral health providers.*

1. To improve prescriber continuity of care, urge the Behavioral Health Administration to make a change in the Code of Maryland (COMAR) Regulations that will permit outpatient mental health clinics in federally-designated psychiatry shortage areas and with demonstrated experience in telehealth to fulfill the requirement for medical director via telehealth versus the current requirement to have someone physically on site.

*Advocate for improved organizational policy in the local school system to expand access to behavioral health services for youth.*

1. If St. Mary's County Public Schools has determined the counseling program at Great Mills High School to be effective and warranting additional support to expand, lobby the funding source for funds to incrementally expand the service at Great Mills and/or another designated county high school.
2. If St. Mary's County Public Schools determines the QPRT assessment to be effectively identifying students in need of behavioral health care, urge the Schools to consider, as policy, at least an annual proficiency training for teachers in this assessment tool.