



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

Lisa A. Burgess, M.D., Interim
Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health
55 Wade Avenue, SGHC/Voc. Rehab Building
Catonsville, MD 21228

March 22, 2023

Dear BH Partners:

Additionally, March is **Problem Gambling Awareness Month**. I want to encourage you to help raise awareness and educate the general public and our healthcare community on the warning signs of problem gambling and identify resources available. [A new video is airing this month with the theme, Have a Plan and Know the Game](#). I hope you will share the video throughout your networks, and again encourage anyone who may have a gambling problem to call 1-800-Gambler 24/7, or they can go to <https://helpmygamblingproblem.org/> for free confidential services.

March is recognized as **Women's National History Month**. This year's theme is "**Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories**." Throughout history, women have held roles as caregivers, inventors, nurses, physicians, writers, poets, musicians, politicians, and advocates for women's rights. Woman, such as: Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Hillary Clinton, and today our Vice-President, Kamala Harris, continue to influence our American history. Within our own behavioral health community, women continue to contribute their talent and vision in shaping and improving the continuum of care for those we serve. Equally, within our own family and community, I am sure there are many women who have greatly influenced our lives – grandmothers and mothers, wives and daughters, sisters, and others – who deserve our recognition and honor for their love and support in helping guide our own journey, and their many contributions to society. Join me in thanking and honoring all these women who continue to touch our lives and enrich our communities.

This communication over the last few years has been one vehicle to keep you informed on important issues and ongoing activities. We believe that other available communications throughout the Administration can serve this purpose, and as such, this Monthly Message will

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sunset this issue, and Bi-Monthly communication of BHA updates will move to quarterly. If you have any questions or concerns or would like specific information that has not been provided in the quarterly update communication, please contact us at bha.inquiries@maryland.gov for assistance.

Over the course of the last few months, under the leadership of Secretary Laura Herrera Scott, we have been actively engaged in reviewing our service systems to enhance efficiencies and improve outcomes. We are excited to work under this new Administration and are reinvigorated by the Secretary's vision to strengthen our behavioral health system through outcome-driven processes. With your continued partnership, the behavioral health system will remain responsive, effective, and supportive to Maryland's families and those on their recovery journey.

Thank you and enjoy the longer daylight hours.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa A. Burgess, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa A. Burgess, M.D.

Interim Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health