



## Board of Directors 2021 - 2023

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## Senate Finance Committee February 17, 2022

### Senate Bill 394 Support with Amendments

The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) urges a favorable opinion on SB 394 with certain amendments. MATOD represents over 65 healthcare organizations across Maryland that provide and promote high-quality, effective medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction. MATOD programs serve over 35,000 Marylanders enrolled in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) receiving methadone and buprenorphine, in conjunction with counseling and other medical services.

Senate Bill 394 would require a number of health care and other community service programs to dispense naloxone free of charge to people they know to have a substance use disorder or are at risk of experiencing an overdose. MATOD supports this effort as long as organizations are able to receive the supplies of naloxone free of charge from MDH. We understand the Administration is offering amendment to clarify that MDH will provide the naloxone to organizations being mandated to dispense it. We support this amendment so the bill does not become an unfunded mandate.

We also are seeking clarification on the need for creating a new definition of “community service programs” in §8-408 that combines two levels of licensed health care providers along with other important human services. As all health care services are included under §13-3104, it is unclear why the bill includes opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and intensive outpatient programs under this new definition.

We will continue to work with the Administration and the HGO Subcommittee to work out language that meets these needs, especially ensuring that MDH provides the naloxone that the bill requires be distributed.

*MATOD members include community and hospital based Opioid Treatment Programs, local Health Departments, local Addiction and Behavioral Health Authorities and Maryland organizations that support evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment. MATOD members include thousands of highly trained and dedicated addiction counselors, clinical social workers, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, peer recovery specialists and dedicated staff who work every day to save and transform lives.*