



**CALVERT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243  
www.calvertcountymd.gov

**Board of Commissioners**

Earl F. Hance  
Mike Hart  
Thomas E. Hutchins  
Kelly D. McConkey  
Steven R. Weems

January 8, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear President Miller:

As the number of older adults increases in the state of Maryland and nationally, it is likely that the number of older adults who have mental health challenges, along with physical limitations or health concerns will also increase. According to the Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, nearly "20% of people over the age of 55 experience mental disorders that are not part of "normal aging." There is a need for appropriate long-term placement options for older adults who need a higher level of care. Calvert's Case Management staff is spread thin trying to meet the needs of older adults with complex behavioral health issues. On average, the Office on Aging manages 10 cases per month and Adult Protective Services manages 25 cases per month. Without adequate placement options for this vulnerable population, managing their care is exceptionally challenging.

Calvert County, and other jurisdictions across Maryland have little to no placement options for seniors diagnosed with a mental disorder, especially those on Medical Assistance or Medicare. This is critical, because nearly 14% of Calvert's total population is comprised of Medicare enrollees 65 and over, compared to the 1.5% on Medicaid. We need to expand our slate of options for mentally ill seniors living over the poverty threshold, but without the financial means for private home health or assisted living services.

We fully support the proposed legislation to designate the Maryland Department of Health (Behavioral Health Administration) to study and determine the scope of the issue, and require the Department of Health to make certain recommendations increasing the number of immediate, short-term, long-term, and temporary placement options for older adults with mental illness and how to fund those options. This will be a collaborative effort in consultation with the Mental Health Association of Maryland (Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging), the Maryland Department of Aging, the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A), and other interested stakeholders.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Thomas E. Hutchins, President

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Kelly D. McConkey, Vice President

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Mike Hart

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Steven R. Weems



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January 8, 2019

The Honorable Jack Bailey  
2W Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey:

As the number of older adults increases in the state of Maryland and nationally, it is likely that the number of older adults who have mental health challenges, along with physical limitations or health concerns will also increase. According to the Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, nearly "20% of people over the age of 55 experience mental disorders that are not part of "normal aging." There is a need for appropriate long-term placement options for older adults who need a higher level of care. Calvert's Case Management staff is spread thin trying to meet the needs of older adults with complex behavioral health issues. On average, the Office on Aging manages 10 cases per month and Adult Protective Services manages 25 cases per month. Without adequate placement options for this vulnerable population, managing their care is exceptionally challenging.

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January 8, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Clark  
Maryland House of Delegates  
303 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Clark:

As the number of older adults increases in the state of Maryland and nationally, it is likely that the number of older adults who have mental health challenges, along with physical limitations or health concerns will also increase. According to the Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, nearly "20% of people over the age of 55 experience mental disorders that are not part of "normal aging." There is a need for appropriate long-term placement options for older adults who need a higher level of care. Calvert's Case Management staff is spread thin trying to meet the needs of older adults with complex behavioral health issues. On average, the Office on Aging manages 10 cases per month and Adult Protective Services manages 25 cases per month. Without adequate placement options for this vulnerable population, managing their care is exceptionally challenging.

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January 8, 2019

The Honorable Mark N. Fisher  
Maryland House of Delegates  
202 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Fisher:

As the number of older adults increases in the state of Maryland and nationally, it is likely that the number of older adults who have mental health challenges, along with physical limitations or health concerns will also increase. According to the Maryland Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, nearly “20% of people over the age of 55 experience mental disorders that are not part of “normal aging.” There is a need for appropriate long-term placement options for older adults who need a higher level of care. Calvert’s Case Management staff is spread thin trying to meet the needs of older adults with complex behavioral health issues. On average, the Office on Aging manages 10 cases per month and Adult Protective Services manages 25 cases per month. Without adequate placement options for this vulnerable population, managing their care is exceptionally challenging.

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January 8, 2019

The Honorable Michael A. Jackson  
Maryland House of Delegates  
204 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Jackson:

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