



**Maryland Chapter
National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence
2022 Public Policy Agenda**

A budget surplus, the pandemic recovery, redistricting, and election campaigns will make the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session complicated. With the number of people dying from overdoses continuing to climb, NCADD-Maryland's policy priorities are clear.

Funding and Transparency

NCADD-Maryland will support efforts to increase public investment in substance use disorder treatment, prevention and recovery support services in the proposed FY 2023 budget. Efforts to add greater transparency to how funding decisions are made by the State will also be supported.

- Invest in recovery supports not reimbursed by Medicaid, including recovery residences, crisis services, and peer recovery specialists
- Fund the new 988 behavioral health crisis hotline
- Create a formal advisory committee to inform how money in the Opioid Restitution Fund is spent
- Advocate for a continuum of care for young people including residential SUD treatment for adolescents, case management, and wrap-around services
- Mitigate the impact of the failed public behavioral health administrative service organization on treatment programs

Harm Reduction and Decriminalization

NCADD-Maryland will support a number of harm reduction strategies that assist individuals who use substances to be safer and to make organizations and systems less harmful. Overdose deaths are increasing, and data shows a significant increase in overdose fatalities among Black Marylanders. NCADD-Maryland will support policy and funding proposals that are aimed at addressing inequities will be supported, and all proposals will be examined through a racial equity lens.

- Lead efforts to strengthen the State's existing Good Samaritan law
- Support legislation to create overdose prevention sites
- Support legislation to decriminalize personal use amounts of currently illegal drugs
- Support efforts to decrease police presence in behavioral health crisis situations

Recovery Support

NCADD-Maryland will work to strengthen the state's recovery supports, including those dealing with recovery residences and the collateral consequences from involvement in the criminal justice.

- Require Maryland Medicaid and commercial insurance companies to reimburse Certified Peer Recovery Specialists

Treatment Behind the Walls

NCADD-Maryland will advocate for greater access to substance use disorder and mental health treatment for people who are in Maryland's jails and prisons.

- Advocate for adequate funding for the implementation of the law that requires local detention centers to provide access to medication assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorders
- Support access to treatment for people in the state prison system

Parity Compliance

NCADD-Maryland will continue to support the Maryland Parity Coalition's efforts to ensure private insurance carriers and Maryland's Medicaid program comply with the federal Parity Act.

- Support implementation by the Maryland Insurance Administration of the 2020 legislation that mandates Parity compliance reporting among commercial insurance company and network adequacy regulations
- Support efforts to bring Maryland Medicaid into compliance with the Parity Act
- Support efforts to establish a statewide consumer assistance/ombud program

Problem Gambling

NCADD-Maryland will continue to work with its partners dealing with problem gambling to direct funding to treatment, support policies to prevent and address problem gambling, and evaluate proposal regarding expanding legalized gaming.

Fighting Stigma

NCADD-Maryland will work to defeat all proposals that perpetuate the stigma against people with substance use and mental health disorders, against quality treatment programs in the community, and against people's choices regarding the kind of clinical treatment they choose, including treatment assisted with all medications.

Cannabis Legalization

NCADD-Maryland will support efforts to include in any successful legislation to legalize adult recreational use of cannabis, measures that address a range of public health concerns, and a reinvestment of revenue generated into public health services and communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.