



Rhonda Lipkin -DHS- Baltimore City <rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov>

## Child Welfare Updates - 5/28/25

3 messages

**BCDSS Deputy Director** <bcdss.deputydirector@info.maryland.gov>  
To: rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov

Wed, May 28, 2025 at 5:31 PM



A message from  
Deputy Director  
Child and Family Services  
Corine Mullings, LMSW

MAY 28, 2025

Dear Child Welfare Team,

Please find below the following important information:

### PEP Season is Here



The time for the Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) is upon us. This is an opportunity to reflect on the work and accomplishments of this past year and to focus on goals for the upcoming year.

Supervisors should **CAREFULLY** read the HR PEP memo that will be distributed on or about June 1 by the BCDSS HR team. Please follow the instructions in the HR memo, particularly the PEP forms that need to be used. Please remember that the deadline submission for CW PEPS is June 13, 2025.

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### Dress Code Reminder



Please note that CW follows the BCDSS dress code found in the Employee Handbook. BCDSS follows DHS' policy for professional attire. Attached is the DHS and BCDSS dress code policy (page three of the Employee Handbook).

Remember, that you are representing BCDSS when working in the office; at a satellite location; or in a hearing (in-person or online); and to dress accordingly.

Please read both policies at your convenience. Please review and speak to your Supervisor if you have specific questions.

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### Update to ABH Mental Health Stabilization Services (ABH-MHSS)



As we approach the summer months, we want to remind everyone of the Mental Health Crisis Support Services to assist our youth with their immediate crisis needs. Please find the information below for both Level 1 and Level 2 Crisis Services. Also, please add these important numbers to your contacts for immediate use.

#### **ABH Mental Health Stabilization Services (ABH-MHSS)**

**Overview:** To work with youth within the DSS system to provide crisis response for youth & families experiencing an urgent need for therapeutic support and interventions.

**Level 1 Crisis:** Immediate crisis requiring a response within one hour due to safety concerns. If the youth has a weapon, is attempting suicide or presents with a high level of aggression toward others, please call 911.

- Referral will be taken over the phone (240-698-0641)
- If BCDSS has guardianship, a referral packet including signed consents and court order should be e-mailed to MHSS staff within 24 hours.

**Level 2 Crisis:** Urgent same day/next day response for a youth requiring more immediate mental health support and intervention.

- To refer, call the MHSS phone (240-698-0641)
- Send completed referral packet including signed consents (if BCDSS has guardianship) and court order via e-mail to MHSS staff
- If BCDSS does not have guardianship, MHSS staff will obtain signed consents from the parent/guardian at time of assessment

The youth and family should be available to meet within an hour for a level one crisis and same day/next business day for a level 2 crisis.

**Crisis stabilization services:** ABH-MHSS also provides up to 6 weeks of intensive home-based treatment with the goal of stabilizing a crisis or addressing safety concerns, reducing high risk behaviors, preventing a higher level of care or

change in placement, and connecting the youth and family to on-going services and resources.

**After hours Monday - Friday 5PM to 9AM**

Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc. (BCRI) will provide after-hours coverage Monday-Friday for BCDSS. BCDSS can call 410-433-5175 for triage, response and connection to CART-MHSS for follow-up for all callers no matter the assessed need.

The call center will complete referrals for Mobile teams when needed and send the referral to dispatch for processing. The dispatcher will dispatch a mobile team based on availability.

BCRI will follow up with CART-MHSS the next day to provide the contact information of the DSS staff or parent so that CART-MHSS can follow up.

**Saturday and Sunday**

There are no designated Youth Crisis Teams. BCDSS will contact 988 for Crisis Supports and follow up with CART-MHSS on Monday to ensure youth are connected for follow-up MHSS support.

If you have any questions about ABH-MHSS, please feel free to contact Gladys Bourne Carter, Program Manager of the Youth Wellness Program at [gladys.bourne1@maryland.gov](mailto:gladys.bourne1@maryland.gov) or Shannon Hodgins at [shodgins@abhmaryland.com](mailto:shodgins@abhmaryland.com). We look forward to working together to support the youth in your care! Also, please feel free to contact the Youth Wellness team for any assistance on Mental health and Psychiatric Services for our youth.

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**Let's REACT!**

There is now a quick and easy way to help case workers remember to register families at MATCH before a shelter hearing. The acronym "REACT" represents the five steps that should be taken to ensure youth are registered:

**R** - Register all children at MATCH on the day of the shelter hearing, even if they are hospitalized.

**E** - Ensure transportation to the appointment.

**A** - Assess if there are any barriers to keeping the appointment.

**C** - Communicate with MATCH any barriers to keeping the appointment.

**T** - Take the health passport to the appointment.

The flyer below reflects the new acronym and can be saved to help you remember these important steps in assisting our youth.



Maryland  
Department of Human Services  
BALTIMORE CITY  
Department of Social Services



## Do you have a shelter hearing?

# Let's REACT!



R	Register all children the day of the shelter hearing	✓
E	Ensure Transportation to the appointment	✓
A	Assess if there are any barriers	✓
C	Communicate with MATCH any barriers to keeping the appointment	✓
T	Take the health passport to the appointment	✓



**MATCH**  
Making all the Children Healthy Program

If a child is hospitalized, please still register.  
Holdover? Still register the same day.

MATCH PROGRAM 1510 GUILFORD AVENUE  
2ND FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

## Certificates of Achievement for April 2025

We are happy to share the achievements of our CPS and OHP staff members on behalf of children and families we serve. The following certificates were awarded to staff who had achievements in exiting youth to permanency, health appointments, and CPS cases in the month of April. Please click the links below to view the certificates.

- **Annual Exam Certificates**
- **Dental Exam Certificates**
- **Case Plan Certificates**

- CPS Certificates
- Exit Certificates

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## Kinship Forms in Spanish

The DHS Communications Team has translated the **Resource Parent and Kinship Caregiver Agreement, Family Home License, and the Emergency Phone Number List to Spanish.**

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Thank you for your attention to these updates, and for all you do in service to children and families in Baltimore.

Warm regards,

Corine Mullings, LMSW  
Deputy Director

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This email was sent to rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Maryland Department of Human Services • 25 South Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21201



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**Rhonda Lipkin -DHS- Baltimore City** <rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov>

Sat, May 31, 2025 at 9:27 AM

To: "mymirviss@venable.com" <mymirviss@venable.com>, Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@franklinlaw.us>, "rhonda.lipkin@gmail.com" <rhonda.lipkin@gmail.com>, "lisa.d.mathias@gmail.com" <lisa.d.mathias@gmail.com>

See updates on urgent mental health services. Notice no dedicated services for youth on weekends.

Rhonda

Rhonda Lipkin  
L.J. v. Massinga IVA  
410-499-3752  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**Mirviss, Mitchell Y.** <MYMirviss@venable.com>

Sat, May 31, 2025 at 10:50 AM

To: Rhonda Lipkin -DHS- Baltimore City <rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov>, Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@franklinlaw.us>, "rhonda.lipkin@gmail.com" <rhonda.lipkin@gmail.com>, "lisa.d.mathias@gmail.com" <lisa.d.mathias@gmail.com>

Thanks, Rhonda

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**From:** Rhonda Lipkin -DHS- Baltimore City <rhonda.lipkin@maryland.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 9:27 AM

**To:** Mirviss, Mitchell Y. <MYMirviss@Venable.com>; Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@franklinlaw.us>;

rhonda.lipkin@gmail.com; lisa.d.mathias@gmail.com

**Subject:** Fwd: Child Welfare Updates - 5/28/25

**Caution: External Email**

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Rhonda

Rhonda Lipkin

L.J. v. Massinga IVA

410-499-3752

----- Forwarded message -----

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