



Fully Fund the HOPE Act 3.5% Rate Increase

Support Access to Community Behavioral Health Services

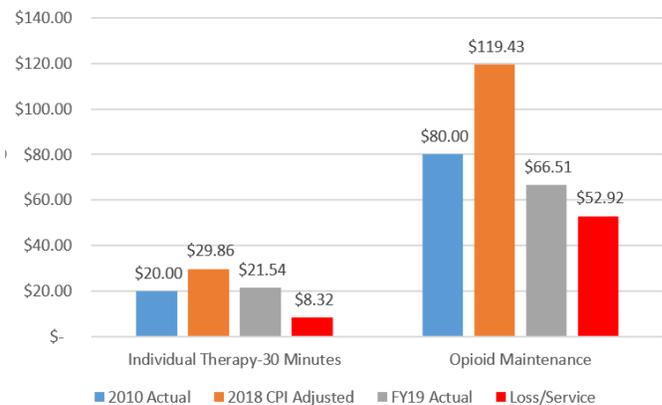
Demand for behavioral health services has risen significantly in Maryland, but stagnating reimbursement rates have limited community providers' ability to ensure adequate access to treatment. The HOPE Act passed Maryland's legislature in 2017 with only one vote in opposition. It mandated increases to reimbursement rates for community mental health and addiction treatment services, including a 3.5% increase for FY2020. Last year, through proposed changes in the budget process, the state almost reduced the rate to only 2%. CBH and the behavioral health community successfully allied to restore funding - and will be closely watching the budgetary process this session to ensure the HOPE Act continues to be fully funded.

Substance Use Disorder Reimbursement

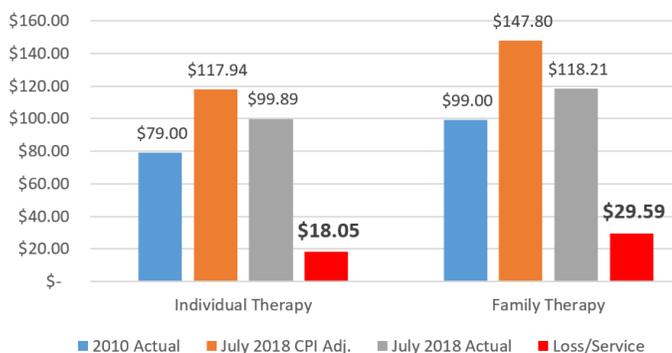
Individual 30 minute therapy for substance use disorder services was reimbursed at \$20 in 2010. If the reimbursement rate for this service had kept pace with inflation since 2010, providers would be paid \$29.86 in 2018. Instead they are paid \$21.54, a difference of \$8.32.

Even more striking, the difference in what opioid maintenance would be reimbursed for if the 2010 rate had kept pace with inflation (compared to what they are actually paid) is \$52.92.

Publicly Funded Substance Use Disorder Reimbursement 2010 - 2018



Publicly Funded Mental Health Reimbursement 2010 - 2018



Mental Health Reimbursement

Mental health reimbursement has also seen an increase in the gap of how much it costs to provide care and what is reimbursed. Individual therapy for mental health services was reimbursed at \$79 in 2010, and would be reimbursed at \$117.94 if it had kept pace with inflation since then. Instead providers are reimbursed at a loss of \$18.05 per therapy session, facing a gap of \$18.05 between costs and revenue for this treatment. Likewise, the gap for family therapy is \$29.59.

When rates don't keep up with inflation, every year providers have less money to cover the rising costs of staff salaries, rent and other business expenses. With less money to cover their costs every year, community providers are limited in their ability to meet Maryland's behavioral health crisis.

Data Sources: BHA rate history, FY98-FY18, CPI inflation at: <http://cpiinflationcalculator.com/>

