



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: 2018 Joint Chairmen's Report (p. 94) – Report on the Efficacy of an Alternative Pain Management Program

Dear Chairs Kasemeyer and McIntosh:

The 2018 Joint Chairmen's Report (p. 94) requires that \$635,000 of the Department of Health's FY2019 appropriation for Medical Care Program reimbursements be used for a grant to a non-profit organization that provides chronic pain management treatment to individuals up to 21 years of age through intensive rehabilitation and behavioral therapies rather than through the prescription of opioids.

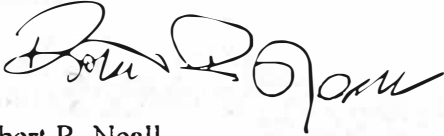
The Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) has awarded a grant in the full amount of \$635,000 to the Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI) for the operation of a pain management program for minors without prescribing opioids. The funds are expected to be used to expand by 20 percent the existing KKI Specialized Program for Prevention of Opioid Dependence, Abuse and Addition in Children and Adolescents with Chronic Pain. This program helps children and adolescents with chronic pain cope and recover using non-opioid medications, behavioral and cognitive-behavioral therapy, psycho-social support, physical therapy, and family education and training.

Grant funds will also be used to: expand community support of patients and parents to reduce recidivism; provide training to community providers (particularly in rural areas) via direct education and tele-education methodologies; providing and evaluating empirically-supported, multi-faceted, state-of-the-science services to patients and their families; and to develop a statewide advisory group. Funding will also be used to strengthen and expand the KKI program by adding staff, resources, instrumentality and outreach that cannot be supported by clinical revenue. These enhancements are expected to increase the number of children and families served each year, and to maximize the program's success at reducing opioid addiction in this at-risk population.

The Department has requested a report from KKI on program outcomes within 60 days after June 30, 2019.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have questions or need more information on this subject, please contact Webster Ye, Deputy Chief of Staff at (410) 767-6480 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Neall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Neall" clearly distinguishable.

Robert R. Neall
Secretary