



STATE OF MARYLAND  
**DHMH**

---

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

September 10, 2013

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

The Honorable Norman H. Conway  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Bldg.  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: 2012 Joint Chairmen's Report (pgs. 68-69) M00Q01.03 - Status of Chronic Health Homes State Plan Amendment**

Dear Chairmen Kasemeyer and Conway:

Pursuant to the 2012 Joint Chairmen's Report (p.68-69), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) submits this summary of the Chronic Health Homes State Plan Amendment that the Department recently submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This letter updates information provided to the committees in March of this year.

The Chronic Health Home Program for individuals with chronic conditions will augment the State's broader efforts to integrate somatic and behavioral health services, as well as aim to improve health outcomes and reduce avoidable hospital encounters. The program will target populations with behavioral health needs who are at high risk for additional chronic conditions, offering them enhanced care coordination and support services from providers with whom they regularly receive care. Health Homes are designed to enhance patient-centered care, empowering participants to manage and prevent chronic conditions in order to improve health outcomes while reducing avoidable hospital encounters.

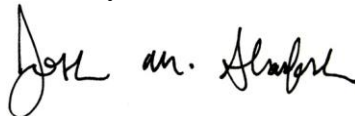
Several provider types are eligible to enroll as Health Homes, including psychiatric rehabilitation programs, mobile treatment service providers, and opioid treatment programs. Health Homes will serve individuals who experience serious persistent mental illness, serious emotional disturbance and those with opioid substance use disorders determined to be at-risk for additional chronic conditions. Health Homes will receive a flat per-member per-month payment to provide these services, as well as a one-time payment for each individual's initial intake assessment.

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer  
The Honorable Norman H. Conway  
Page 2

The Department is in the final stages of consultation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to receive approval for an October 1 start-date; the Department anticipates receiving approval in mid-September. The Department has begun receiving provider applications and is in the process of reviewing them for approval. Health homes that are approved for participation in the program will begin pre-enrolling eligible individuals in September for the program's launch on October 1.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have questions or need more information about this initiative, please contact Marie Grant, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6480.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh M. Sharfstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Secretary

cc: Patrick Dooley, M.A.  
Charles Milligan, J.D.  
Tricia Roddy  
Marie Grant, J.D.