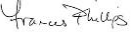




MARYLAND Department of Health

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

TO: MDH Leadership
PHS Directors
Local Health Officers

FROM: Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA 
Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services

DATE: February 11, 2019

RE: Public Health Services Reorganization

In response to Governor Hogan's call to action and under the direction of Secretary Neall, certain opioid-related responsibilities have been transferred with the Maryland Department of Health. This action, which became effective February 4, 2019, integrates aligned programs and supports the Department's goal of driving down overdose deaths in 2019. The reorganization consolidates and strengthens Public Health Services' prevention, early intervention, harm reduction and surveillance efforts. It also allow the Behavioral Health Administration to focus on its primary goals related to behavioral health treatment and recovery.

An updated Public Health Services organization chart is attached. Details are outlined below.

- **The Office of Controlled Substances Administration (OCSA) and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) are merged as the Office of Provider Engagement and Regulation (OPER).** The OPER continues the functions of both OCSA and PDMP and maintains all mandated requirements and restrictions related to data access. As a combined unit, OPER provides a center of support for prescribers and dispensers to better promote professional education, informed clinical decision-making, best practices and innovation so that Maryland patients experience optimal access, efficacy and safety in connection with controlled substances. OPER has two Co-Directors: Audrey Clark (410-764-2899 or audrey.clark@maryland.gov) and Kate Jackson, (410-402-8609 or kate.jackson@maryland.gov).
- **Primary Prevention Programs aimed at substance misuse have been transferred to the Office of Population Health Improvement (OPHI).** This action allows state, regional, and local substance misuse prevention activities to be better integrated with ongoing local health improvement coalitions. This integration eliminates redundancy and allow local governments and communities to consolidate efforts for better results. Contacts are Cheryl DePinto, MD, Director, OPHI ((410) 767-5595 or cheryl.depinto@maryland.gov) and Michael Baier, Deputy Director, OPHI (410-402-8643 or michael.baier@maryland.gov).
- **Harm reduction efforts, currently largely comprised of syringe services and naloxone-related work, have been consolidated within the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA.)** This consolidation allows for a centralized platform for naloxone, syringe services and several new harm reduction strategies about to be launched. The contact for harm reduction services is Erin Haas, Chief, Center for Harm Reduction Services (410-767-

2713, erin.haas@maryland.gov).

- **All tobacco enforcement programs have been consolidated within PHPA.** Tobacco enforcement programs are under the direction of Dawn Berkowitz, Director, Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control (410-767-2920, dawn.berkowitz@maryland.gov).

Cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary
Steven Schuh, Executive Director, OCCC