

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 24-19

INTRODUCED BY: Howard County Medical Society

SUBJECT: Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Medical Directors

Whereas, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics (OHMCs) are required to have a Medical Director; and

Whereas, OHMC Medical Directors have responsibility for clinical services; and

Whereas, historically Medical Directors have been required to be psychiatrists and must be on site at the OHMC for at least 20 hours per week; and

Whereas, there was a shortage of psychiatrists that could provide the on-site service and access to OMHCs was at risk particularly in rural areas; and

Whereas legislation was enacted address the shortage of psychiatrists by authorizing the Medical Director to utilize telehealth to meet the 20 hour requirement; and

Whereas, a psychiatrist is trained to address the full range of mental health services and clinical staff oversight necessary to ensure high quality care and to maximize clinical outcomes; and

Whereas, a Medical Director, in the eyes of patients and their families, has always referred to physician, who has greater training than does a nurse practitioner; and therefore be it

Resolved, that it is MedChi policy that the Medical Director of an outpatient mental health center should be required to be a licensed and appropriately trained physician.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on November 2, 2019.