



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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## Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Behavioral Health Administration • Spring Grove Hospital Center • Dix Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

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

Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D., Deputy Secretary - Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

December 18, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor  
State of Maryland  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Executive Order 01.01.2009.13 – Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2009.13, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was required to establish the Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention. The Commission was charged with creating a 2-year state plan that establishes priorities and strategies for organizing, delivering, and funding State suicide prevention, intervention and post-suicide services. The plan was to be submitted to the Governor by June 1, 2011 and biannually thereafter.

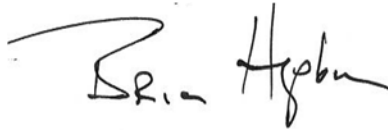
The initial plan was submitted in 2012, and the Commission has met four times a year since then to work on the identified issues. In 2014, it came to the attention of the Department that the reporting schedule listed in the Executive Order required a biannual (i.e., twice a year) reporting schedule, not biennial (i.e., every other year), as we believe was originally intended. Unfortunately, that meant the reporting schedule had not been met. However, since the 2012 plan was submitted, the Department, in coordination with the Commission, has:

1. Hired an additional staff member to implement the goals and strategies of the Commission;
2. Recommended and completed the name change of the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline to the Maryland Crisis Hotline to make it accessible to persons across the lifespan;
3. Developed a marketing campaign to bring awareness across the State to the Maryland Crisis Hotline, with implementation beginning in early 2015; and
4. Promoted and trained communities, including faith-based organizations, government agencies, and higher education and community programs, in Mental Health First Aid to equip communities with the tools and knowledge to address mental health concerns and crises and to make the appropriate and necessary referrals.

The Commission has continued to meet and work with the Department to continually update its statewide coordinated system for suicide prevention, intervention and post-suicide services. It is the intention of the Commission and the Department to begin working with the new Administration in 2015 on recommending changes to the Executive Order to reflect current best practices in this area and set a new reporting schedule, with the expectation that a revised state plan would be submitted to the Governor in 2016.

If you have questions, please contact me at 410-402-8452 or [brian.hepburn@maryland.gov](mailto:brian.hepburn@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hepburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "H".

Brian Hepburn, M.D.  
Executive Director & Commission Chair

Cc: Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.  
Rianna Matthews-Brown, J.D.  
Allison Taylor, J.D., M.P.P.  
Cyntice Bellamy, M.S., M.Ed  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #9405