
By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 29, 2002

CHAPTER 371

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Hygiene - Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response
4 System in the Mental Hygiene Administration; requiring the crisis response
5 system to use and coordinate certain services to develop an effective crisis
6 response system to serve all individuals in the State; requiring the crisis
7 response system to provide certain clinical interventions; requiring the crisis
8 response system to respond quickly and effectively to community crisis
9 situations; requiring the Mental Hygiene Administration to consult with certain
10 entities in the development of the crisis response system; requiring the crisis
11 response system to include crisis communication centers, emergency services,
12 follow-up services, community awareness promotion and training programs,
13 and a certain evaluation of outcomes of services; requiring services to be
14 implemented as determined by certain core service agencies; providing that
15 advance directives for mental health services apply to the delivery of services
16 under this Act; providing that the State may not expend more than a certain
17 amount of State general funds in implementing the Maryland Mental Health
18 Crisis Response System; requiring the Administration to implement the
19 Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System in a certain manner; making
20 this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally relating to the Maryland
21 Mental Health Crisis Response System.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
23 Article - Health - General
24 Section 1-101(a), (c), and (j) and 10-101(a) and (b)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

1 BY adding to
2 Article - Health - General
3 Section 10-1401 through 10-1405, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
4 "Subtitle 14. Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System"
5 Annotated Code of Maryland
6 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

7 Preamble

8 WHEREAS, There has been a significant increase in the need for community
9 public mental health services and the lack of these services, including comprehensive
10 crisis intervention services and supports, has resulted in an overutilization of costly
11 acute care State hospital beds; and

12 WHEREAS, The Mental Hygiene Administration recommends the
13 establishment of an initiative to identify and provide enhanced community-based
14 services for individuals who are at high risk for repeated hospitalizations,
15 homelessness, criminal arrest, or suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, In the recent report to the Governor by the Community Access
17 Steering Committee, the Committee concluded that one of the major barriers to
18 expanding community access to mental health treatment is the lack of a
19 comprehensive, statewide mental health crisis intervention system as an alternative
20 to hospitalization; and

21 WHEREAS, The recent terrorism attacks, including those of September 11,
22 2001, have resulted in increased anxiety and other mental disorders among citizens
23 throughout the United States, particularly among those who have had previous
24 experiences with trauma, and increased concern about the possibility of future
25 terrorist attacks, warranting the establishment of a comprehensive statewide mental
26 health crisis response system; now, therefore,

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
28 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

29 **Article - Health - General**

30 1-101.

31 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

32 (c) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

33 (j) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

34 10-101.

35 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

1 (b) "Administration" means the Mental Hygiene Administration.

2 SUBTITLE 14. MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

3 10-1401.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
5 INDICATED.

6 (B) "CORE SERVICE AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1201 OF THIS
7 TITLE.

8 (C) "CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM" MEANS THE MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH
9 CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

10 10-1402.

11 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM IN
12 THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION.

13 (B) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL:

14 (1) OPERATE A STATEWIDE NETWORK UTILIZING EXISTING RESOURCES
15 AND COORDINATING INTERJURISDICTIONAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP EFFICIENT AND
16 EFFECTIVE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEMS TO SERVE ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATE,
17 24 HOURS A DAY AND 7 DAYS A WEEK;

18 (2) PROVIDE SKILLED CLINICAL INTERVENTION TO HELP PREVENT
19 SUICIDES, HOMICIDES, UNNECESSARY HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND ARRESTS OR
20 DETENTION, AND TO REDUCE DANGEROUS OR THREATENING SITUATIONS
21 INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; AND

22 (3) RESPOND QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO COMMUNITY CRISIS
23 SITUATIONS.

24 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT WITH CONSUMERS OF MENTAL
25 HEALTH SERVICES, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES IN THE
26 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

27 10-1403.

28 (A) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE:

29 (1) A CRISIS COMMUNICATION CENTER IN EACH JURISDICTION OR
30 REGION TO PROVIDE:

31 (I) A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY TO THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM;

32 (II) COORDINATION WITH THE LOCAL CORE SERVICE AGENCY,
33 POLICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL, AND MENTAL HEALTH
34 PROVIDERS; AND

- 1 (III) SERVICES THAT MAY INCLUDE:
- 2 1. A HOTLINE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS
3 INTERVENTION;
- 4 2. A TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH
5 INFORMATION, REFERRAL, AND ASSISTANCE;
- 6 3. TRIAGE FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL;
- 7 4. REFERRAL TO TREATMENT, FAMILY AND PEER SUPPORT
8 GROUPS, AND OTHER SERVICES AS NEEDED;
- 9 5. FOLLOW-UP FOR UP TO 1 MONTH;
- 10 6. COORDINATION OF DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS,
11 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ON-CALL
12 SYSTEM FOR THESE SERVICES;
- 13 7. A COMMUNITY CRISIS BED AND HOSPITAL BED REGISTRY,
14 INCLUDING A DAILY TALLY OF EMPTY BEDS;
- 15 8. TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION, ENSURING
16 TRANSPORTATION OF PATIENTS TO URGENT APPOINTMENTS OR TO EMERGENCY
17 PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES; AND
- 18 9. LINKAGE TO 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEMS AND OTHER
19 TELEPHONE SYSTEMS PROVIDING PUBLIC OR SOCIAL SERVICES;
- 20 (2) EMERGENCY SERVICES INCLUDING:
- 21 (I) MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS, CRISIS
22 INTERVENTION, TREATMENT, FOLLOW-UP, AND REFERRAL TO URGENT CARE, AND
23 TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC MENTAL
24 HEALTH SERVICES;
- 25 (II) URGENT CARE; AND
- 26 (III) EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES;
- 27 (3) FOLLOW-UP SERVICES INCLUDING:
- 28 (I) MOBILE TREATMENT TEAMS TO PROVIDE OUTREACH SERVICES
29 ON LOCATION;
- 30 (II) INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAMS; AND
- 31 (III) RESIDENTIAL CRISIS SERVICES;
- 32 (4) COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROMOTION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS;
33 AND

1 (5) AN EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES OF SERVICES THROUGH AN ANNUAL
2 SURVEY BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONSUMERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO
3 HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES FROM THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

4 (B) THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM SERVICES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AS
5 DETERMINED BY THE CORE SERVICE AGENCY SERVING EACH JURISDICTION.

6 (C) AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER § 5-
7 602.1 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES UNDER THIS
8 SUBTITLE.

9 (D) THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT PETITIONS FOR
10 EMERGENCY EVALUATIONS UNDER § 10-622 OF THIS TITLE.

11 10-1404.

12 ~~(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET SUFFICIENT~~
13 ~~FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM AS FEDERAL FUNDS AND~~
14 ~~OTHER SOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE.~~

15 ~~(B) THE SECRETARY MAY RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED~~
16 ~~STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY FOR THE CRISIS~~
17 ~~RESPONSE SYSTEM.~~

18 (A) THE STATE MAY NOT EXPEND MORE THAN \$250,000 IN STATE GENERAL
19 FUNDS IN EACH FISCAL YEAR TO IMPLEMENT THE MARYLAND MENTAL HEALTH
20 CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM.

21 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL IMPLEMENT THE CRISIS RESPONSE
22 SYSTEM, IN COLLABORATION WITH CORE SERVICE AGENCIES, ON A REGIONAL OR
23 JURISDICTIONAL BASIS AS FEDERAL FUNDING OR FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES
24 BECOMES AVAILABLE.

25 10-1405.

26 THE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM PROVIDERS SHALL CONTRACT WITH SERVICE
27 PROVIDERS WHO EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS WHO USE OR HAVE USED MENTAL HEALTH
28 SERVICES.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act is
30 contingent on the receipt of federal funding or funding from any other private or
31 public source to implement the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System
32 established under Section 1 of this Act. The Mental Hygiene Administration, within
33 15 days after the receipt of federal funding or other sources of funding for the
34 Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System, shall give written notice to the
35 Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, of the
36 receipt of funding. Section 1 of this Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of the
37 written notice from the Administration.

1 SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2
2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.