
By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mental Health Advisory Committees**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the requirements for the governing bodies of two or more
4 counties to establish an intercounty mental health advisory committee;
5 authorizing the governing body in Baltimore City to designate Baltimore Mental
6 Health Systems, Inc. as the mental health advisory committee for Baltimore
7 City; providing for an exception to the membership requirements for a mental
8 health advisory committee in Baltimore City; and generally relating to mental
9 health advisory committees.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 10-308 and 10-309(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 10-308.

19 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the
20 governing body of each county shall establish a mental health advisory committee.

21 (b) The purpose of a mental health advisory committee shall be to serve as
22 advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages.

23 (c) The governing bodies of two or more counties may establish, by agreement,
24 an intercounty mental health advisory committee if:

25 (1) The population of one of the counties is too small to warrant the
26 establishment of a [community] mental health [program] ADVISORY COMMITTEE
27 for that county; and

1 (2) The Director consents.

2 (d) The governing body of a county may establish a joint mental health and
3 addictions advisory committee.

4 (e) In Howard County, if a quasi-public authority is established under
5 Subtitle 12 of this title, the governing body may designate the authority as the mental
6 health advisory committee for the county.

7 (F) IN BALTIMORE CITY, THE GOVERNING BODY MAY DESIGNATE BALTIMORE
8 MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC., THE CORE SERVICE AGENCY FOR BALTIMORE CITY
9 UNDER SUBTITLE 12 OF THIS TITLE, AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
10 FOR BALTIMORE CITY.

11 10-309.

12 (a) (1) The mental health advisory committee of each county shall consist of:

13 (i) As nonvoting ex officio members, the following individuals or
14 their designees:

- 15 1. The health officer for the county;
- 16 2. A representative of a State inpatient facility that serves
17 that county, appointed as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection;
- 18 3. The county mental health director;
- 19 4. The director of the core service agency, if any; and
- 20 5. In jurisdictions with designated State inpatient beds
21 located in local general hospitals, a representative from that facility; and

22 (ii) As voting members, appointed by the governing body of the
23 county and representative of the county's major socio-economic and ethnic groups:

- 24 1. At least 5, but not more than 7, representatives selected
25 from among the following groups or agencies:
 - 26 A. The governing body;
 - 27 B. The county department of education;
 - 28 C. The local department of social services;
 - 29 D. The practicing physicians;
 - 30 E. Mental health professionals who are not physicians;
 - 31 F. The clergy;

- 1 G. The legal profession;
- 2 H. A local law enforcement agency;
- 3 I. A local general hospital that contains an inpatient
4 psychiatric unit;
- 5 J. The Department of Aging;
- 6 K. The Department of Juvenile Services;
- 7 L. The local alcohol and drug abuse agency; and
- 8 M. A local community rehabilitation or housing program; and
- 9 2. At least 5 individuals selected from among the following
10 groups or organizations and appointed as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection:
- 11 A. At least 2 individuals who are currently receiving or who
12 have in the past received mental health services;
- 13 B. Parents or other relatives of adults with mental disorders;
- 14 C. Parents or other relatives of children or adolescents with
15 emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders the onset of which occurred during
16 childhood or adolescence;
- 17 D. The local mental health association, if any; and
- 18 E. A member of the general public.

19 (2) If more than one State inpatient facility serves a county, a
20 representative from at least 1 of the facilities shall be appointed by the Director.

21 (3) At least one-half of the voting members shall be appointed from
22 among the individuals listed in paragraph (1)(ii)2 A through C of this subsection.

23 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPHS (1) THROUGH (3) OF THIS
24 SUBSECTION, IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF BALTIMORE CITY DESIGNATES THE CORE
25 SERVICE AGENCY AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MENTAL
26 HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
27 CORE SERVICE AGENCY.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 July 1, 2005.