
By: **Senator Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 21, 2005

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2005

CHAPTER _____

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.

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

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

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

8 (2) The Director consents.

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

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

14 (F) IN BALTIMORE CITY, THE GOVERNING BODY MAY DESIGNATE BALTIMORE
15 MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC., THE CORE SERVICE AGENCY FOR BALTIMORE CITY
16 UNDER SUBTITLE 12 OF THIS TITLE, AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
17 FOR BALTIMORE CITY.

18 10-309.

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

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

22 1. The health officer for the county;

23 2. A representative of a State inpatient facility that serves
24 that county, appointed as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection;

25 3. The county mental health director;

26 4. The director of the core service agency, if any; and

27 5. In jurisdictions with designated State inpatient beds
28 located in local general hospitals, a representative from that facility; and

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

31 1. At least 5, but not more than 7, representatives selected
32 from among the following groups or agencies:

33 A. The governing body;

- 1 B. The county department of education;
- 2 C. The local department of social services;
- 3 D. The practicing physicians;
- 4 E. Mental health professionals who are not physicians;
- 5 F. The clergy;
- 6 G. The legal profession;
- 7 H. A local law enforcement agency;
- 8 I. A local general hospital that contains an inpatient
- 9 psychiatric unit;
- 10 J. The Department of Aging;
- 11 K. The Department of Juvenile Services;
- 12 L. The local alcohol and drug abuse agency; and
- 13 M. A local community rehabilitation or housing program; and
- 14 2. At least 5 individuals selected from among the following
- 15 groups or organizations and appointed as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection:
- 16 A. At least 2 individuals who are currently receiving or who
- 17 have in the past received mental health services;
- 18 B. Parents or other relatives of adults with mental disorders;
- 19 C. Parents or other relatives of children or adolescents with
- 20 emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders the onset of which occurred during
- 21 childhood or adolescence;
- 22 D. The local mental health association, if any; and
- 23 E. A member of the general public.

24 (2) If more than one State inpatient facility serves a county, a

25 representative from at least 1 of the facilities shall be appointed by the Director.

26 (3) At least one-half of the voting members shall be appointed from

27 among the individuals listed in paragraph (1)(ii)2 A through C of this subsection.

28 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPHS (1) THROUGH (3) OF THIS

29 SUBSECTION, IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF BALTIMORE CITY DESIGNATES THE CORE

30 SERVICE AGENCY AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE MENTAL

1 HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
2 CORE SERVICE AGENCY.

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