

CHAPTER 272

(House Bill 1243)

AN ACT concerning

Anne Arundel County – Mental Health Advisory Committee

FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body in Anne Arundel County to designate Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. as the mental health advisory committee for Anne Arundel County; providing for an exception to the membership requirements for a mental health advisory committee in Anne Arundel County; and generally relating to mental health advisory committees.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 10–308 and 10–309(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

Article – Health – General

10–308.

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

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

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

(1) The population of one of the counties is too small to warrant the establishment of a mental health advisory committee for that county; and

(2) The Director consents.

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

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

(f) In Baltimore City, the governing body may designate Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc., the core service agency for Baltimore City under Subtitle 12 of this title, as the mental health advisory committee for Baltimore City.

(g) IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, THE GOVERNING BODY MAY DESIGNATE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCY, INC., THE CORE SERVICE AGENCY FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY UNDER SUBTITLE 12 OF THIS TITLE, AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

10-309.

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

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

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

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

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

- A. The governing body;
 - B. The county department of education;
 - C. The local department of social services;
 - D. The practicing physicians;
 - E. Mental health professionals who are not physicians;
 - F. The clergy;
 - G. The legal profession;
 - H. A local law enforcement agency;
 - I. A local general hospital that contains an inpatient psychiatric unit;
 - J. The Department of Aging;
 - K. The Department of Juvenile Services;
 - L. The local alcohol and drug abuse agency; and
 - M. A local community rehabilitation or housing program;
- and

2. At least 5 individuals selected from among the following groups or organizations and appointed as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection:

- A. At least 2 individuals who are currently receiving or who have in the past received mental health services;
- B. Parents or other relatives of adults with mental disorders;

C. Parents or other relatives of children or adolescents with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders the onset of which occurred during childhood or adolescence;

D. The local mental health association, if any; and

E. A member of the general public.

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

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

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, if the governing body of Baltimore City **OR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY** designates [the] **A** core service agency as the mental health advisory committee, the mental health advisory committee shall consist of the governing body of the core service agency.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.