

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 567
Finance

(Senator Pugh)

Health - Guidelines for Providing Mental Health Treatment to Individuals with
Co-Occurring Disorders

This bill requires the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) to develop guidelines for the provision of mental health treatment to individuals with co-occurring disorders so that the treatment does not cause additional harm to an individual who also needs treatment for a substance abuse disorder.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) advises that the department already develops regulations similar to those described in the bill. The bill's requirements can therefore be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: MHA within DHMH provides mental health services to the citizens of Maryland through private community-based providers, local health department clinics, and State-operated clinics. Services include inpatient hospital and residential treatment facility stays, outpatient treatment, psychiatric rehabilitation, counseling, and targeted case management.

MHA regulations specify that a mental health program director must ensure that the program either provides substance abuse treatment for individuals with secondary

co-occurring disorders or has a written plan to, if necessary, coordinate mental health services with a certified substance abuse program. The regulations further specify that, if a diagnostic evaluation of an individual indicates that the individual has a secondary co-occurring substance abuse disorder, the individual's treatment plan and progress notes must either reflect the course of treatment relative to the disorder or include documentation of coordination of care and collaboration with the provider of substance abuse services.

The Task Force on the Needs of Persons with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders was established by Chapter 297 of 2003 and extended by Chapter 426 of 2005. The task force's final report (published in 2006) noted that, to adequately address the needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders, both mental health and substance abuse programs must be able to provide comprehensive assessments and remain flexible in their ability to integrate services based on individualized need.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2011
mm/mwc

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510