



The State of Maryland
Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2019.02

Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland

- WHEREAS, One in five adults experiences a mental health condition every year and one in 17 lives with a serious mental illness;
- WHEREAS, Adults in the United States living with serious mental illness die on average 25 years earlier than others, largely because of treatable medical conditions;
- WHEREAS, Untreated mental illness creates immense economic and human problems, including, but not limited to, homelessness, burdens on the judicial system, victimization, suicide, and violence;
- WHEREAS, Mental illness not only affects the person suffering from it, but also the person's friends, family, and community;
- WHEREAS, Available and accessible early-intervention services can more quickly stabilize, and significantly reduce, preventable behavioral health crises and divert individuals from the criminal justice system, emergency departments, and inpatient hospitalization;
- WHEREAS, 50 percent of those with mental illness experience its effects by age 14 and 75 percent by age 24, making early engagement and support critical for effective intervention;
- WHEREAS, There is a well-documented link between substance-use and mental health disorders as approximately 7.9 million adults in the United States have co-occurring disorders;
- WHEREAS, In order to further its ongoing efforts to address the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis, the State must continue to ensure a coordinated, high-quality system of care; and

WHEREAS, Coordination among State agencies, local governments, and community partners is necessary to establish best practices and improve the State's Public Mental Health System;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Establishment. There is a Governor's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland (the "Commission").

B. Membership.

(1) The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The Lieutenant Governor;
- (b) An appointee of the President of the Maryland Senate;
- (c) An appointee of the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
- (d) A representative of the Judicial system of the State, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;
- (e) The Secretary of the Department of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- (f) The Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- (g) The Secretary of the State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
- (h) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee;

- (i) The Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (j) The Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee;
 - (k) The Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center; and
 - (l) Six public members, to be appointed by the Governor, representing a range of experience related to mental health, including lived experiences, clinical expertise, work within the criminal justice system, and the provision of social services.
- (2) The members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - (3) Staff members from the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, and the Maryland Department of Health will also be regular participants.
 - (4) The Chair may also invite other units of State or U.S. government, including law enforcement agencies, to designate representatives for participation.

C. Duties. The Commission shall:

- (1) Advise and assist the Governor in improving access to a continuum of mental-health services across the State;
- (2) Consider the findings of the Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council 2017 Strategic Plan: 24/7 Crisis Walk-in and Mobile Crisis Team Services;
- (3) Conduct regional summits in various parts of the State to study how mental illness may impact parts of the State differently;

- (4) Submit an interim report no later than six months from the date of this Executive Order on its findings relating to access to mental-health treatment services in the State; and
- (5) Submit a final report to the Governor by December 31, 2019, that includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for policy, regulations, or legislation to address the following:
 - (a) Improving the statewide, comprehensive crisis response system; and
 - (b) Ensuring parity of resources to meet mental-health needs.

D. Procedures.

- (1) The Lieutenant Governor shall be Chair of the Commission. The Chair shall:
 - (a) Oversee the implementation of this Executive Order and the work of the Commission;
 - (b) Determine the Commission's agenda; and
 - (c) Identify additional support needs of the Commission.
- (2) The Commission shall convene within 90 days of this Executive Order and meet as frequently as necessary to satisfy the deadlines established herein.
- (3) A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.
- (4) The Commission may adopt other procedures as necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, effective this 10th Day of January, 2019.


Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor



ATTEST:


John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State