



The State of Maryland
Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2022.02

Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Advisory Group

- WHEREAS, One in five adults experience 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, 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, The State of Maryland is committed to addressing this public health issue and created the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland (the “Commission”) to advise the Governor on improving access to a continuum of mental-health services across the State, enhancing the statewide comprehensive crisis response system, studying how mental illness may impact parts of the State differently, and ensuring parity of resources to meet mental-health needs;
- WHEREAS, The Commission studied the involvement of those in the justice system with behavioral health disorders, and prioritized the need for behavioral health support mechanisms for those involved in the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, Chapter 68 of the Laws of Maryland (2021) created the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence (the “Center of Excellence”) to act as a statewide clearinghouse for behavioral health treatment and diversion programs, develop a strategic plan to increase treatment and reduce detention of those with behavioral health disorders in the judicial system, and provide technical assistance to local governments’ behavioral health support systems for those in the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, The Commission recommended that an advisory group collaborate with the Center of Excellence to address individuals in the criminal justice system dealing with mental and behavioral health disorders; and

WHEREAS, It is essential that this advisory group, Center of Excellence, and other relevant partners work to establish best practices and devote effort to the needs of such individuals;

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. There is a Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Advisory Group (the “Group”).

B. Membership

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

(a) The Lieutenant Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor’s designee;

(b) The Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, or the Executive Director’s designee;

(c) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary’s designee; and

(d) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary’s designee.

(2) The following shall, upon acceptance of membership, be additional Group members:

- (a) A designee of the President of the Senate;
- (b) A designee of the Speaker of the House of Delegates;
- (c) A representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;
- (d) A representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;
- (e) A representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;
- (f) A representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland; and
- (g) A representative of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(3) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall provide the Group with staff and consultants as necessary and feasible.

C. Procedures

(1) The Lieutenant Governor or the Lieutenant Governor's designee shall be Chair of the Group.

(2) The Chair shall:

- (a) Oversee the work of the Group;
- (b) Determine the Group's agenda; and
- (c) Identify additional support needs of the Group.

(3) The Group shall convene as frequently as necessary to satisfy its responsibilities, as determined by the Chair, but no less than monthly.

- (4) A majority of the Group's members is a quorum for the transaction of Group business.
- (5) The Group may adopt other procedures as necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

D. The Group shall:

- (1) Advise on the development and implementation of the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence (the "Center of Excellence") action plan that assists in diverting those with mental illness, or intellectual or developmental disabilities, from the criminal justice system and provides them with appropriate treatment;
- (2) Support the Center of Excellence's Sequential Intercept Model as a planning tool to strategically inform legislation, policy, planning, and funding;
- (3) Locate potential federal funding streams that the Center of Excellence can apply for to support its mission;
- (4) Assist in the creation of repositories of best practices throughout the state; and
- (5) Perform other appropriate duties or responsibilities as recommended by the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 7th Day of March, 2022.



Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

WITNESSETH:

John C. Wobensmith
John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State