



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

November 12, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State of Maryland
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

Section 13-809 of the Health – General Article requires the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission to submit an annual report that 1) describes its findings regarding various issues related to payment of health care providers; 2) recommends the need for any formal executive, judicial, or legislative action; 3) describes issues in need of future study by the Commission; and 4) discusses any other matter that relates to the purposes of the Commission under Title 13, Subtitle 8 of the Health – General Article.

The Commission's last meeting was held on January 14, 2014, and shortly thereafter, all of the Commissioners resigned. In a letter dated May 14, 2014, Chairman Middleton and Chairman Hammen requested that the Governor not move forward with appointing new members to the Commission until the legislature has had an opportunity to deliberate on the future utility of the Commission and recommend possible legislation in 2015. No new Commission members have been appointed. Therefore, the Commission has nothing to report.

I hope that this information is useful. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (410) 767-6481.

Sincerely,

Allison Taylor, MPP/JD
Director, Office of Governmental Affairs

cc: Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Rianna Matthews-Brown
Bernard Simons
Sarah Albert, MSAR# 9362



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Received

May 14, 2014

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Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene

Dear Secretary Sharfstein:

Chapter 593 of the 1996 session of the Maryland General Assembly established the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission (CSRRC) to review the wages and costs of mental health and developmental disabilities providers in Maryland and make recommendations for a weighted average cost structure. Comprised of seven members, the CSRRC is required to issue a report to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Maryland General Assembly on an annual basis regarding their findings and recommendations.

The provision of and payment for community services in Maryland is in a period of transition. Mental health services, traditionally administered by a fee-for-service administrative services organization, are in a period of change as these traditional services are being more closely aligned with substance abuse services under the larger umbrella of behavioral health. For developmental disabilities providers, the Developmental Disabilities Administration plans to issue a Request for Proposals to solicit a vendor to perform a thorough rate setting study to determine the appropriate level of payment for providing services.

Given these changes to both community service systems, the future role of the CSRRC is unclear. We are requesting that the Governor not move forward with appointing new members to the CSRRC until the legislature has had an opportunity to deliberate on the future utility of the CSRRC and recommend possible legislation for the 2015 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Carlson, counsel to the Finance Committee, at 410-946-5637, or Erin Hopwood, counsel to the House Health and Government Operations Committee, at 410-946-5482.

Sincerely,

Thomas McLain Middleton
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

Peter A. Hammen
Chairman, House Health and
Government Operations Committee