



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

December 16, 2015

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

Re: Health - General Article § 10-208(d) - Report on the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund for Fiscal Year 2015

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Health – General Article, Section §10-208(d), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) submits this report on the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund (Fund).

Background

The money in the Fund is the Behavioral Health Administration's (BHA) portion of the Community Services Trust Fund Account. Monies in the Fund are to be used to meet the needs of individuals leaving State facilities to enter community-based services. Any unspent portions of the Fund may not be transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State but must remain in the Fund to be used for specified purposes.

Fund Balance & Expenditures

At the beginning of fiscal year 2015, the Fund had a balance of \$3,157,610. The closing balance for the Fund on June 30, 2015 was \$3,110,627. During the fiscal year, \$1,358,623 was added to the Fund balance, resulting from \$1,320,000 for the sale of property at Spring Grove Hospital Center, \$33,214 in interest, and \$5,409 from rent. In fiscal year 2015, BHA allocated funding to two programs to serve individuals at risk for homelessness: Housing First Initiative and the Hospital Discharge Program. Expenditures from the Fund during fiscal year 2015 were \$1,405,606. The fiscal year 2016 budget includes \$2,270,693 in expenditures from the Fund.



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Programming

The Housing First Initiative began in fiscal year 2015 in response to current housing barriers for individuals with behavioral health disorders. This initiative provides rental assistance, housing support, advocacy and linkages to resources for individuals with severe behavioral health conditions experiencing homelessness; those in state psychiatric facilities who lack the housing resources to be discharged; and those who remain in residential rehabilitation beds due to lack of affordable housing in the community.

A combined total of 72 individuals are served annually in Baltimore City (36), Montgomery County (24), and Prince George's County (12).

In addition, the Hospital Discharge Program began in fiscal year 2015 and provides community services to individuals leaving state psychiatric facilities who have a history of arson, sexual deviancy, or complex medical needs in addition to psychiatric symptoms, and require specialized services upon hospital discharge. This program has placed individuals into the community who are traditionally difficult to place, including funding additional on-site medical supervision and intense psychiatric services to 20 individuals in assisted living, intensive residential group services (24 hours/7 days a week) for five individuals, mental health developmental disability residential and day services to one individual, and specialized mental health services for six specific patients at Spring Grove Hospital.

Unless a state-owned BHA facility is sold beforehand or the Department identifies alternative resources, funding for this program will be exhausted during fiscal year 2017.

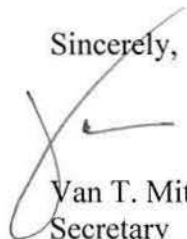
Finally, BHA continues to serve patients at its five state psychiatric facilities. The total number of patients served in BHA facilities, excluding the two Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents, increased from 973 individuals at the beginning of fiscal year 2015 to 1,048 at the beginning of fiscal year 2016. Of these, 76 percent were identified as forensically involved at the beginning fiscal year 2015 and 75 percent at the beginning of fiscal year 2016. Without additional funding to serve non forensic patients with severe behavioral health disorders who are homeless or lack housing resources, individuals must remain in psychiatric facilities, creating a backlog of court-ordered forensic patients.

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Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund, please contact Allison Taylor, Director of Governmental Affairs, at 410-767-6481 or at Allison.Taylor@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Van T. Mitchell', written over a horizontal line.

Van T. Mitchell
Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.
Barbara Bazron, Ph.D.
Rianna Matthews-Brown, J.D.
Allison Taylor, J.D., M.P.P.
Sarah T. Albert, MSAR # 290