



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary*

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January 13, 2017

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 2016

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 2016, the Fund had a balance of \$3,110,627. The closing balance for the Fund on June 30, 2016 was \$1,224,872. During the fiscal year, \$237,752 was added to the Fund balance, resulting from \$33,372 in interest and \$5,401 from rent. In addition, \$198,979 was added to the fund from unspent prior year accrued expenditures. These were funds that BHA anticipated receiving invoices for by year's end, but did not. In fiscal year 2016, BHA continued its allocation in funding two programs to serve individuals at risk for homelessness: Housing First Initiative and the Hospital Discharge Program. Expenditures from the Fund during fiscal year 2016 were \$2,123,507. The fiscal year 2017 budget includes \$882,316 in planned expenditures from the Fund.

### **Programming**

The Housing First Initiative started in FY 2015 to assist with breaking down some of the complex barriers that homeless individuals with severe behavioral health face when seeking access to housing. The Housing First Initiative provides rental assistance, housing support, advocacy and linkages to resources for individuals with severe behavioral health conditions experiencing

homelessness; those in state psychiatric hospitals who lack the housing resources to be discharged; and those who remain in Residential Rehabilitation beds because of a lack of affordable housing in the community. The project provides housing units and services in Baltimore City (36 individuals), Montgomery County (24 individuals), and Prince George's County (12 individuals). A combined total of 72 individuals annually are served.

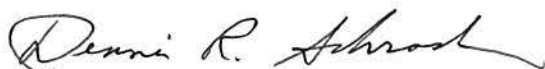
Also starting in FY 2015, the Hospital Discharge Program provides community services to individuals leaving state hospitals that have a history of arson, sexual deviancy, or complex medical needs in addition to psychiatric symptomology and require specialized services upon hospital discharge. As a result of this program individuals who have traditionally been difficult to place have been able to be transitioned to the community, allowing psychiatric hospitals to admit more patients from the judicial system and detention centers. Services funded under this program include additional on-site medical supervision and intensive psychiatric services to 20 individuals in assisted living to allow them to remain in the community, intensive 24/7 residential group services for 5 individuals, mental health and developmental disability residential and day services for one individual, and specialized mental health services for six specific patients at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

### **Conclusion**

Funding for these two initiatives will continue through FY 2017. Unless a state-owned BHA facility is sold beforehand or the Department identifies alternative resources, funding will be exhausted by fiscal year 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund, please contact Webster Ye, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6480 or at [webster.ye@maryland.gov](mailto:webster.ye@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Schrader  
Secretary

cc: Barbara Bazron, Ph.D.  
Shauna Donahue  
Webster Ye  
Sarah T. Albert, MSAR # 290