



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. 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

Ms. Victoria L. Gruber
Executive Director
Department of Legislative Services
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: Health-General Article § 10-208(d) and COMAR 10.21.23.06—Report on the
Mental Hygiene Community-Based Services Fund for FY18**

Dear President Miller, Speaker Busch, and Ms. Gruber:

Pursuant to Health-General Article § 10-208(d) and COMAR 10.21.23.06, the Maryland Department of Health (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, which holds proceeds from the sale or lease of property and equipment of a Development Disabilities Administration or Behavioral Health Administration facility. 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. See also COMAR 10.21.23.05E.

Ward Closures

In FY18, no state inpatient facility wards closed. No state inpatient facility wards are planned for closure in FY19.

Fund Balance and Expenditures

At the beginning of FY18, the Fund had a balance of \$1,716.79. During the fiscal year, \$505,350.05 was added to the Fund balance: \$500,000 from the sale of property at Springfield Hospital Center at the end of FY18, \$5,400 from rent from the U.S. Coast Guard, and -\$49.95 in interest. In FY18, BHA continued its allocation in funding for two programs to serve individuals at risk for homelessness: the Housing First Initiative and the Hospital Discharge Program. Expenditures from the Fund during FY18 were \$7,057.48. The closing balance for the Fund on June 30, 2018, was \$500,009.36.

In FY19, revenue attainment is anticipated to be \$5,481: \$5,400 from rent from the U.S. Coast Guard and \$81 in interest. With the beginning Fund balance of \$500,009.36, total revenue for FY19 will be \$505,490.36. Currently, there is Special Fund appropriation of \$5,481 in FY19 for the Fund. In FY19, BHA will process a budget amendment to utilize these funds for housing initiatives.

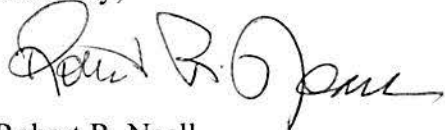
Programming

The Housing First Initiative started in FY15 to assist with breaking down some of the complex barriers that homeless individuals with severe behavioral health issues 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. Funding for this initiative will continue through FY19. The Department anticipates expending the estimated \$505,490 fund balance out of the Fund and \$861,125 from general funds.

Also started in FY15, 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 providing 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 five 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. There are no funds available in the Fund for this initiative in FY19. The Department anticipates expending \$1,986,366 from general funds.

If you have any questions regarding the Fund, please contact Webster Ye, Deputy Chief of Staff, at 410-767-6480 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Neall
Secretary

cc:

Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (MSAR# 290)