

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Legislative Session \_\_\_\_\_ 1991 \_\_\_\_\_

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ CB-87-1991 \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed and Presented by The Chairman (by request -  
County executive)

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_

**BILL**

AN ACT concerning

Mental Health Advisory Committee

FOR the purpose of changing the membership and certain duties and obligations of the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

Sections 2-172,

2-173, and

2-173.1,

The Prince George's County Code

(1987 Edition, 1989 Supplement).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 2-172, 2-173 and 2-173.1 of

the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

**SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

**DIVISION 10. COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEMS.**

**Sec. 2-172. Mental Health Advisory Committee: Composition, Appointments, Terms of Office.**

(a) The Mental Health Advisory Committee for Prince George's County [is continued as an advisory committee to the County, to] , hereinafter referred to as the "Advisory Committee," is established pursuant to Section 10-308, et seq., Health-General Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to serve as advocate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages and shall have and exercise the powers, duties, and functions provided hereinafter. [Hereinafter in this Division it may be referred to as the "Advisory Committee."]

(b) The voting membership [of the Mental Health Advisory Committee] , appointed by the governing body of the County, as defined in Section 12-101.2(a) of the Prince George's County Code, shall be [so constituted as to provide the following representation] representative of the County's major socio-economic and ethnic groups and shall be comprised as follows:

- [ (1) [One (1) member representing the County Executive;
- (2) One (1) member representing the County Council;
- (3) One (1) member representing the County Department of Education;
- (4) One (1) member representing the County Department of

Social Services;

(5) One (1) member representing the County Medical Society;

(6) One (1) member representing a County consortium of clergy;

(7) One (1) member representing the County Bar Association;

(8) One (1) member representing the Mental Health Association of Prince George's County;

(9) One (1) member representing a County Council on alcoholism or representing related addictive concerns, where one exists;

(10) Two (2) members, one (1) mental health professional as a provider representative and one (1) consumer representative, each from Prince George's County, Maryland;

(11) At least six (6) members representing the County as a whole and the interests of consumers of health services, including one (1) representative from each mental health catchment area advisory committee in the County, where said catchment area committees exist.]

(1) At least five (5), but not more than seven (7), representatives shall be selected from among the following groups or agencies:

(A) The governing body;

(B) The County Board of Education;

(C) The County Department of Social Services;

(D) The County Medical Society;

(E) The active County clergy;

(F) The County Bar Association;

(G) The Mental Health Association of Prince George's County;

(H) The County Police or Sheriff's Departments;

(I) A local general hospital that contains an inpatient psychiatric unit;

(J) The Office on Aging;

(K) The Department of Juvenile Services;

(L) The local alcohol and drug abuse agency; and

(M) A local community rehabilitation or housing program.

(2) At least five (5) individuals shall be selected from among the following groups or organizations:

(A) At least two (2) individuals who are currently receiving or who have in the past received mental health services;

(B) Parents or other relatives of adults with mental disorders;

(C) Parents or other relatives of children or adolescents with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders the onset of which occurred during childhood or adolescence;

(D) The local mental health association; and

(E) A member of the general public;

(3) If more than one State inpatient facility serves the County, a representative from at least one of the facilities shall be appointed by the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration.

(4) At least one-half of the voting members shall be

appointed from the individuals listed in paragraph (b) (2) (A) through (C) of this subsection.

(c) The term of office of each voting member of the Advisory Committee shall be for three (3) years, commencing on the first day of July of the year of an appointment[; except, that members presently serving on the Advisory Committee on the day this Division becomes law shall, unless removed, serve out the remainder of their present terms of appointment.] The terms of one-third of the members shall end each year. Members who have served two (2) consecutive, full three-year terms shall not be eligible for reappointment for a period of [three (3)] two (2) years following completion of such terms.

**Sec. 2-173. Same; Officers; Meetings; Bylaws; Subcommittees; Ex-Officio Members; Staff Support.**

(a) [The] A chairperson and other officers [of the Mental Health Advisory Committee] shall be elected annually from among and by the membership of the Advisory Committee. [The chairmanship of the Advisory Committee shall not be held by the same person] A member shall not serve as chairperson for more than two (2) consecutive years.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall meet in public session [on call by the Chairman as frequently as required to perform its duties and exercise its responsibilities] at least six times per year at the times and places that the Advisory Committee determines. The minutes of each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be recorded and copies thereof shall be made available at cost to any interested party upon request. Any member of the Advisory Committee who fails,

without an excused absence, to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Advisory Committee, or six (6) or more of the meetings of the Advisory Committee in any given calendar year, shall be considered to have resigned from the Advisory Committee. Any member of the Advisory Committee may be removed by the County Executive, pursuant to Section 507 of County Charter.

(c) The Advisory Committee shall adopt bylaws governing the conduct of its meetings and other official duties and activities.

(d) The Advisory Committee may create internal subcommittees and solicit the assistance of additional participants as needed.

(e) In addition to the voting members of the Advisory Committee, [there] the following individuals or their designees shall be [five (5)], ex officio, nonvoting members of the Advisory Committee[, one (1) each representing]: the County Health Officer, the Director of the Directorate of Mental Health of the County Health Department, the Regional Mental Health Director, [the Regional Psychiatric Hospital for Prince George's County, and the Psychiatric Services Division of the County Department of Hospitals and Health Services. Appointees to these five (5) positions shall not require appointment and confirmation pursuant to Section 322 of County Charter, but shall serve at the pleasure of the respective appointing official or body. There shall also be one (1) ex officio, nonvoting member of the Advisory Committee representing the psychiatric department of a privately operated general hospital which is located in the County and offers psychiatric in-patient care. The Advisory Committee shall adopt bylaws to govern the selection, appointment and term of office of this member] a

representative of a State inpatient facility that serves the County appointed by the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, the Director of the Core Service Agency, if any, and a representative from a local general hospital with designated State inpatient beds.

(f) The County Health Officer shall annually confer with the Advisory Committee in order to ascertain the need for and provide such staff services to the Advisory Committee as are, in [his] the Health Officer's judgment, essential to insure that the Advisory Committee's work is facilitated.

**Sec. 2-173.1. Same; Duties and Responsibilities.**

The Advisory Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) [To assist the County Health Officer in the initial preparation of, and the revision of, on an annual basis thereafter, a mental health plan for the County;

(b) To periodically review, with the advice and assistance of the County Health Officer and the Regional Mental Health Director, available services and facilities and determine local mental health needs;

(c) To advise and report annually to the County Health Officer, the County Executive, the County Council, and the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene on the progress of the County's mental health program and of actions needed for further improvements; and

(d) To make recommendations to the County Health Officer, the County Executive, the County Council, and the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for the appropriate allocation of funds associated with

mental health grant proposals and requests in accordance with the priorities set forth in the County's current mental health plan, as prepared under Subsection (a), above, and in consideration of available financial resources.]

To monitor, review and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of publicly-funded mental health services within the County through means such as conducting or participating in site visits;

(b) To determine the needs of the County mental health system, including quality of services, gaps in the system and interagency coordination;

(c) To participate in the development of the local mental health plan and local mental health budget;

(d) To prepare and disseminate an annual report to the following:

(1) The Health Officer;

(2) The County Mental Health Director;

(3) The governing body of the appropriate County;

(4) The director of the local Core service agency, if any;

(5) The regional mental health director;

(6) The Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration;

(7) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

(8) The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene.

(e) The annual report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the progress of the County mental health system;



(2) Recommendations on actions needed to improve the system;

(3) Recommendations on priorities for allocation of funds; and

(4) In accordance with those priorities and after consideration of financial resources, recommendations on appropriate allocation of funds;

(f) To review and comment on the annual Core service agency or County mental health plan and preliminary budget, prior to submission of the budget to the State; and

(g) To review and comment on the annual fiscal report.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the members serving on the Advisory Committee on the effective date of this Act shall, unless removed, serve out the remainder of their present terms of appointment.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1991.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Castaldi  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maurene W. Epps  
Acting Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parris N. Glendening  
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that  
remain unchanged.