



Mental Health Advisory Committee – County Legislation Summary per County Executive

- Created** -- Montgomery County Code Chapter 24-34, as amended.(1990, 1992). Bill 7-95, effective 7/11/95 re: Department of Health and Human Services reorganization and State law, Chapter 21.
- Purpose** -- The Committee monitors, reviews, and evaluates the allocation and adequacy of publicly-funded mental health services within the County through means such as conducting or participating in site visits; determines the needs of the County mental health system, including quality of services, gaps in the system, and interagency coordination; and, participates in the development of the local mental health plan and local mental health budgets. The Committee also prepares an annual report to certain state and County officials; reviews and comments on the annual mental health plan and preliminary budget for the state mental health grant to the County; and reviews and comments on the annual budget for mental health services of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Financial Disclosure** -- Not required.
- Membership** -- 19 voting members (as described in the listing below) and at least 3 nonvoting ex officio members. Members serve without compensation.
- Voting Members** -- (a) **7 individuals selected as representatives from the following 13 categories:** the County Executive, the County Council, **the County public schools, the practicing physicians in the County; mental health professionals in the County who are not physicians; the clergy in the County; the legal profession in the County; a local law enforcement agency;** a local general hospital that contains an inpatient psychiatric unit; the county office on aging; **the Department of Juvenile Services;** the Department of Health and Human Services; and a local community rehabilitation or housing program; (b) 4 individuals who are currently receiving or have in the past received mental health services; (c) 3 parents or other relatives of adults with mental disorders; (d) 3 parents or other relatives of children or adolescents with emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders, the onset of which occurred during childhood or adolescence; (e) one representative from the local mental health association; and (f) one member of the general public.
***Bold = organizations currently represented on the Committee**
- Nonvoting Members** -- **Ex-Officio, Nonvoting Members are from the following individuals or their designees:** a) the State Mental Hygiene Administration regional mental health director who serves the County; b) a representative of a State inpatient facility that serves the County; c) Director of the County DHHS; and d) if there are designated State inpatient beds located in County general hospitals, a representative from those facilities.
- Additional Requirements** A Committee member must not receive direct or indirect monetary benefits From State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene grants or contracts, except local general hospitals that contain a clinic or State designated inpatient beds, a local community rehabilitation or housing program, and the representative from the County mental health association. “Monetary benefits” do not include reimbursement for ordinary expenses, such as travel, or compensation received by a government employee. The State Director of Mental Hygiene appoints the representative of the State inpatient facility under State law.
- Terms** -- Three year terms. A voting member who has served 2 consecutive full terms must not be reappointed for 2 years after completing those terms.
- Meetings** -- First Thursday evening of each month at 7 p.m.
- Program Manager Contact:** Diane Lininger, DHHS/ Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, 240-777-3317