

Applications for the Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council being accepted through July 31, 2015

Recent legislation (Senate Bill 174) has created a Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council. The Council is to include individuals representing the mental health and substance related disorder treatment communities, in each of the following areas:

- **Academic or Research Professionals**
- **Medical Professionals**
- **Individuals formerly or currently in receipt of Behavioral Health Services**
- **Family Members of Individuals with Mental Health, Substance Related, and Addiction Disorders**
- **A youth with a Behavioral Health Disorder who is between the ages of 16 and 25 years**
- **Individuals active in Behavioral Health Issues within their community**

The above individuals are appointed by the Governor to three year terms. Interested applicants should carefully review the purpose of the Council **AND** ensure that all application documents **are submitted no later than July 31, 2015. Please note that State employees are not eligible to apply for the Governor appointed seats.**

Note: The DHMH Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations will contact the organizations/State departments noted in the Bill to obtain their representative's information directly.

PURPOSE:

Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health General 7.5 - 305, and federal Public Law 102-321, the State of Maryland has established the Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council to promote and advocate for:

- (i) planning, policy, workforce development, and services to ensure a coordinated, quality system of care that is outcome-guided and that integrates prevention, recovery, evidence-based practices, and cost-effective strategies that enhance behavioral health services across the state; and
- (ii) a culturally competent and comprehensive approach to publicly funded prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services that support and foster wellness, recovery, resiliency, and health for individuals who have behavioral health disorders and their family members.

Advisory Council duties:

1. Attend Council meetings which will be held at least six (6) times per year.
2. Serve on one or more of the various committees; meeting times will be identified by the individual committees.
3. Advocate for a comprehensive, broad based, person-centered approach to provide the social, economic, and medical supports for people with behavioral health needs; as mandated by Health General 7.5 – 305 and by Public Law 102-321.
4. Review plans provided to the Council by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and submit to the State any recommendations of the council for modifications to the plans, as mandated by Public Law 102-321.
5. Monitor, review, and evaluate, not less than once each year, the allocation and adequacy of Behavioral Health services and funding; as mandated by Public Law 102-321.
6. The council may consult with state agencies to carry out the duties of the council.
7. Submit an Annual Report of its activities to the Governor and subject to Section 2-1246 of the State Governor article, to the General Assembly.
8. Submit reports to the Federal government, as mandated by Public Law 102-321.
9. Receive and review annual reports submitted by the County Advisory Committees as mandated by Health General 7.5–305.
10. Serve as a forum for the dissemination and sharing of information concerning the Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) between Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Behavioral Health Administration staff, Behavioral Health advocates, including consumers, and providers of Substance Related Disorders (SRD) services in Maryland and other interested parties.
11. Serve as a linkage with State agencies seeking collaboration for improved Behavioral Health services.

All interested applicants must submit the following three documents:

1. Biographical Information Form (attached)
2. Appointee Exemption Disclosure form (attached). This form is required by the State Ethics Commission (SEC) and instructions on completion of the form are attached. Applicants are required to file an annual financial disclosure with the State Ethics Commission. Applicants may contact the SEC at 410-260-7770 with questions or to request guidance.
3. Current resume or curriculum vitae (Letters of support may also be included).

The application and accompanying documents are to be submitted via e-mail or fax by July 31, 2015 to:

Kim Bennardi

Administrator

DHMH Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations

Kim.bennardi@maryland.gov

Phone: 410-767-4049

Fax: 410-767-6489

Additional questions may be addressed to Kim Bennardi via phone or e-mail.