

plan for community mental health services. It was an enormous undertaking, and the people of Maryland owe a debt of gratitude to those whose work brought it into being. The report was placed into my hands last week, but I have not had an opportunity to do more than glance at it. Therefore I, of course, would not attempt to appraise it. I have, however, referred it to the Planning Department, the Budget Bureau and to other interested agencies and officials of State government, with instructions that it be examined and perused with the idea of possible implementation. I am aware that that is the reason for this conference—that you are here to examine the findings and recommendations and to discuss the measures to be taken to accomplish the broad purposes of the plan.

I am sure that all of us are in agreement as to the urgent need for the development of a comprehensive community-based mental health program in Maryland. The principle of a community-based program of mental health has been accepted for years, and initial steps already have been taken to shift the emphasis from the large institutions to community-based facilities. The State psychiatric hospitals, in accordance with this view, have been regionalized to permit patients to stay closer to their homes and to foster a closer relationship between the hospitals and the patient's family. This trend may be expected to accelerate.

I am sure that all of you here are acquainted with the steps we have taken to build our first comprehensive Community Mental Health Center as an adjunct of the University of Maryland in Baltimore. In two capital budgets, a total of \$500,000 has been appropriated for planning and for the acquisition of land for this important facility. Likewise, money has been appropriated for the planning of a similar institution connected with the Eastern Shore State Hospital in Cambridge.

We are developing, through an appropriation of \$50,000 in the current operational budget, a pilot program for the treatment of psychiatric patients in the State's in-patient hospital program for indigent and medically indigent patients. Likewise, this program may be expected to be greatly enlarged and improved as time goes on. You know also of the day hospitals, financed jointly by State and local governments, which have been established in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Montgomery County. A fourth institution is planned for next year.

These are but a few examples of what your State has done in its commitment to the policy of community based mental health pro-