

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That subsections (c), (e), (h), (i) and (l) of Section 1J of Article ~~may~~ shall establish a mental health advisory committee and ~~ap-~~ 43 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1971 REPLACEMENT VOLUME), title "Health," subtitle "Department of Health and Mental Hygiene," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

1J.

(c) The governing body of each county and of Baltimore City ~~may~~ shall established ESTABLISH a mental health advisory committee and appoint the members thereto. Membership shall consist of one representative each from the local governing body, the school board, the welfare board, the practicing physicians, the clergy, and the legal profession, *the mental health association where one exists,* and *at least three* ~~to six~~ additional members representing the community as a whole. The term of office of each member shall be for three years commencing from the first day of July of the year of appointment except that of the members first appointed one-third shall be appointed for a term of two years and one-third for a term of one year. Members who have served two consecutive full terms shall not be eligible for reappointment for a period of three years following completion of such terms. The officers of the committee shall be elected annually by the membership and ~~the chairmanship shall be rotated on an annual basis~~ *no office shall* THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHALL NOT *be held by the same person for more than two* CONSECUTIVE *years.* The committee shall be empowered to create internal subcommittees and draw in additional participants as needed. The local health officer, *the regional mental health director,* and a representative of the regional mental hospital shall be ex officio members of the committee. The local health officer shall provide staff services to the committee and facilitate the work of the committee in every way possible.

Two or more counties by agreement of the governing bodies concerned and upon the consent of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene with the approval of the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene, may establish a community mental health program and an inter-county advisory committee, if the population of one of the counties is too small to warrant establishment of an independent program.

(e) The function of each community mental health advisory committee shall be to:

(1) Periodically review available services and facilities and determine local mental health program needs;

(2) Advise and report annually to *the local health officer,* the governing body(ies), and to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene on progress of the local mental health program and of actions needed for further improvements; and

(3) Make recommendations for appropriate allocation of funds in accordance with agreed upon priorities and consideration of financial resources (private, public, and State).

(h) The Commissioner of Mental Hygiene shall appoint regional *mental health* directors ~~representatives~~ who will act as his deputies and will coordinate the local mental health programs in each of