

the regions of the State with the regional State psychiatric hospitals and represent the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene in carrying out his responsibilities concerning the mental health services and facilities of the region.

(i) The health officer for each county and for Baltimore City shall be responsible for the local mental health services program and shall:

(1) Consult with the *local regional mental health director* [regional representative of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene] in planning for various program components;

(2) Prepare an annual plan and budget for provision of services, establishment of facilities, contracting for services or facilities and other matters necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of the act;

(3) Assure that the qualifications of personnel and the quality of professional services rendered meet the standards prescribed by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene with the approval of the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(4) Exercise general supervision over mental health services and facilities furnished, operated, or supported by his department;

(5) Submit an annual report to the advisory committee and the governing body on all activities of the program including a financial accounting of expenditures and a forecast of anticipated needs for the ensuing year;

(6) Carry on such other duties as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the subtitle.

(1) In addition to other duties and powers given to him under this subtitle and other provisions of law, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene with the approval of the Board of Health and Mental Hygiene shall:

(1) Promulgate rules and regulations governing the eligibility of local mental health programs to receive State grants under this subtitle;

(2) Promulgate rules and regulations prescribing standards for qualifications of personnel and quality of professional services rendered in local mental health programs supported under this subtitle provided that all full or part-time employees or consultants supported with funds under this subtitle shall be recruited, appointed, promoted, and retained without reference to race, creed or color, and this shall apply to services contracted for by local programs;

(3) Promulgate rules and regulations governing eligibility for service provided that no person shall be denied service on the basis of race, creed, color, or the inability to pay for services;

(4) Review and evaluate local programs and personnel practices and make recommendations thereon to the local governing body and the local health officer;

(5) Provide consultative staff service *through his regional mental health directors* to subdivisions to assist in ascertaining local needs and in planning and establishing local mental health programs;