

certain rate of change as recommended by the Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission; requiring that certain adjustments be made to meet the needs of certain individuals; prohibiting the annual rate of change from exceeding a certain maximum rate; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and fees paid to community developmental disabilities and mental health services providers.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 16–201.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS. Annual cost-of-living adjustments to reimbursement rates paid for community-based developmental disability and mental health services are necessary for quality care; and

WHEREAS. Annual cost-of-living adjustments have not been a routine part of rate-setting for community mental health services or community developmental disability services; and

WHEREAS. The last inflationary increase in rates for community developmental disability services was fiscal 2002 and, until the fiscal 2007 budget allowance, the last inflationary rate increase for community mental health services was prior to the implementation of the Medicaid managed care waiver program in 1997; and

WHEREAS. The lack of regular cost-of-living adjustments in rates paid to community mental health and developmental disability providers is eroding service quality, reducing access to essential care, and deepening an already severe workforce crisis; and

WHEREAS. Whether by statute, regulation, or practice, annual cost-of-living adjustments are built into the reimbursement rates of other major providers of public health services, including community hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes, and medical daycare centers; and

WHEREAS. Making annual adjustments for cost of living in rates for community mental health and developmental disability services would not only correct a long-standing rate-setting inequity but also help ensure quality care for persons with psychiatric and developmental disabilities; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: