

10-1203.

(a) To the extent resources are available, the Secretary, after consultation with the Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene as established in Subtitle 3 of this title and federal requirements mandated under P.L. 99-660, may initiate the development of core service agencies as a mechanism for community planning, management, and financing of mental health services.

(b) When core service agencies are initiated, the Secretary shall:

(1) Define the priority populations to be served by the core service agencies, with a special emphasis on the provision of services to the seriously mentally ill populations;

(2) Define the essential mental health and associated support services to be provided under the auspices of the core service agencies;

(3) Define the essential administrative functions to be carried out by core service agencies; and

(4) Outline the requirements for the core service agencies' governance structure.

(c) To assure the continuing provision of appropriate services, the Secretary shall:

(1) Annually review and may approve the core service agencies' program plan;

(2) In conjunction with the appropriate authorities, establish and maintain a funding mechanism for the core service agencies which may include the allocation of funds for inpatient services;

(3) Develop a mechanism whereby any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the year shall remain with the core service agencies or the community providers;

(4) Establish procedures to facilitate intraagency and interagency linkages at State and local levels with the core service agencies; and

(5) Establish procedures within the Mental Hygiene Administration for a process regarding program, policy, or contract [dispute] ~~DISPUTES THAT GIVES ALL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS REGULATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION THE RIGHT TO:~~

~~(I) A HEARING BEFORE THE DIRECTOR; AND~~

~~(II) THE RIGHT TO APPEAL A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR AS A CONTESTED CASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

(I) ACCESS THE MEDIATION PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND