

advance directives for mental health services apply to the delivery of services under this Act; providing that the State may not expend more than a certain amount of State general funds in implementing the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System; ~~providing for the funding of this Act~~ requiring the Administration to implement the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System in a certain manner; requiring the crisis response system to contract with certain service providers; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally relating to the Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 1–101(a), (c), and (j) and 10–101(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 10–1401 through 10–1405, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
“Subtitle 14. Maryland Mental Health Crisis Response System”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, There has been a significant increase in the need for community public mental health services and the lack of these services, including comprehensive crisis intervention services and supports, has resulted in an overutilization of costly acute care State hospital beds; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Hygiene Administration recommends the establishment of an initiative to identify and provide enhanced community-based services for individuals who are at high risk for repeated hospitalizations, homelessness, criminal arrest, or suicide; and

WHEREAS, In the recent report to the Governor by the Community Access Steering Committee, the Committee concluded that one of the major barriers to expanding community access to mental health treatment is the lack of a comprehensive, statewide mental health crisis intervention system as an alternative to hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, The recent terrorism attacks, including those of September 11, 2001, have resulted in increased anxiety and other mental disorders among citizens throughout the United States, particularly among those who have had previous experiences with trauma, and increased concern about the possibility of future terrorist attacks, warranting the establishment of a comprehensive statewide mental health crisis response system; now, therefore,

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