

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Mental Health Transformation Working Group, in collaboration with the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall convene a Workgroup on Cultural Competency and Workforce Development for Mental Health Professionals.

(b) The Workgroup shall include representatives from:

- (1) the Senate of Maryland and House of Delegates of Maryland;
- (2) the relevant professional licensing boards;
- (3) mental health care provider groups;
- (4) consumer groups with knowledge or experience with mental health care issues or health care for minority populations;
- (5) advocacy groups with knowledge or experience with mental health care issues or health care for minority populations; ~~and~~
- (6) any interest group or stakeholder with knowledge or involvement in the issues addressed by the Workgroup;
- (7) the Statewide Commission on the Shortage in the Healthcare Workforce;
- (8) the Governor's Workforce Investment Board or other groups working on health workforce shortage issues; and
- (9) State and other organizations that represent minority health professionals.

(c) The purposes and goals of the Workgroup shall be to examine:

- (1) barriers to access to appropriate mental health services provided by health care professionals who are culturally competent to address the needs of the State's diverse population;
- (2) barriers to licensure or certification of foreign-born and foreign-trained mental health professionals;