

WHEREAS, The 5-year master plan identified 6,500 such individuals in Maryland, defined needed services for 3,250 of them, and excluded services for those individuals with mental illnesses who are homeless and those who live in the community and who have not used the public mental health system, including those who live with family members without support services; and

WHEREAS, The State Comprehensive Plan for Citizens With Serious Mental Illnesses, submitted to the federal government in 1989 in accordance with federal PL ~~199-660~~ 99-660, identifies 26,500 individuals in the State who suffer a long-term disabling mental illness; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, the Governor introduced and implemented a 3-year public-private partnership plan, which was never codified, to replace the 5-year master plan in Fiscal Year 1989. It identified and provided an array of needed services based on the 5-year master plan; and

WHEREAS, The 3-year public-private partnership plan ends in 1991; and

WHEREAS, The State budget has provided funding for less than half of the 3,200 individuals identified for services, since the 5-year plan took effect in Fiscal Year 1986, and has not provided funding for comprehensive community-based services for the other 3,250 individuals who are either homeless, in jails, or otherwise in the community and not receiving services from the public mental health system; and

WHEREAS, In order to remain out of institutions or hospitals, many individuals with long-term mental illnesses do not use, do not have available to them, or cannot be served appropriately by the State's existing network of community-based residential, treatment, rehabilitation, and support services; and

WHEREAS, It is the policy of this State to foster and strengthen a permanent comprehensive system of community-based services for individuals with mental illnesses as an alternative to institutional care; now, therefore,

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

**Article - Health - General**

10-206.

(a) The Secretary shall revise periodically the State comprehensive mental health plan.

(b) The State comprehensive mental health plan shall:

(1) Include an inventory of the mental health resources in this State;

(2) Set out the needs of the various areas for services, INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLAN DESCRIBED IN § 10-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE;