

Community Services Rate Reimbursement Commission
Oakland Hills Interfaith Center, Columbia Maryland
October 28, 2011

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners – Jillian Aldebron (chair), Kia Brown, Jeffrey Richardson, Thomas Sizemore, Timothy Wiens (vice-chair). Consultant – Charles Betley, Michael Abrams.

Absent: Commissioner Marshall Jones

Proceedings

The first meeting of the newly established Community Services Reimbursement Rate Commission (CSRRC) was called to order at 7 p.m. In addition to commissioners, consultants, and DHMH staff, public participation included representatives of the mental health and developmental disability provider and advocacy communities and a DLS analyst.

The goal of the meeting was to educate commissioners on the organization and financing of mental health and developmental disabilities services in Maryland; introduce commissioners to each other, the technical consultant, and the stakeholders; and establish CSRRC structures and procedures. The 2011 General Assembly reauthorized the CSRRC for five years, effective October 1, 2011.¹ Six of the seven commissioners have been appointed: one position for a member who is not affiliated with a mental health or developmental disability service provider remains vacant.

Although prior statutory authority for the CSRRC expired only on Sept. 30, 2011, the CSRRC effectively ceased to function after March 2009 because necessary funding was not made available. The last CSRRC annual report was issued in January 2009; this report will serve as the starting point for renewed CSRRC activity.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) contracted with Hilltop Institute to serve the CSRRC with administrative support and rate setting expertise. Hilltop health policy analysts Charles Betley and Michael Abrams presented an overview of Hilltop's depth of proficiency and breadth of experience in the health policy arena. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DHMH and Hilltop, which was signed prior to the CSRRC's reauthorization, was distributed to commissioners. Valerie Roddy, chief of staff to the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health & Disabilities, offered the DHMH perspective on the relationship between DHMH and the CSRRC. Commissioners also reviewed in detail the statute that creates the CSRRC and establishes its scope of authority, operations, reporting responsibilities, and required deliverables.

¹ Md. Code Ann. Health-General Article, §13-801 et seq. (2011).

Frank Kirkland, director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Brian Hepburn, director of the Mental Health Administration, provided presentations on the structures and financing of the services over which they have jurisdiction.

Decisions

In keeping with previous CSRRC practice, commissioners were divided up to serve on either the mental health or developmental disabilities technical advisory group (TAG). The mental health TAG will be convened by the CSRRC chair and include commissioners Jeff Richardson and Marshall Jones. The developmental disability TAG will be convened by the CSRRC vice-chair and include Tom Sizemore and Kia Brown.

CSRRC meetings will be held every other month, with the TAGs meeting in the intervening months. The next meeting of the CSRRC will be in December, and the first meeting of the TAGs will take place in November. Meeting dates and times will be posted on the website. CSRRC meetings are public; TAG meetings are by invitation, but participation may be requested of the respective conveners by anyone who wants to attend.

As part of their continuing orientation, commissioners will attend field trips to mental health and developmental disability providers. The trips will be organized by commissioners Jeff Richardson (mental health) and Tim Wiens (developmental disabilities). Dates to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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