

Mental Health Association of Maryland

The Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is the voluntary, nonprofit citizens' organization that brings together consumers, families, professionals, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and mental illness.

Since 1915, MHAMD has been a leader in progressive programs resulting in more effective treatment, improved outcomes for individuals, increased research and greater public understanding of the needs of children and adults living with mental illness.

The MHAMD Government Affairs Committee addresses Statewide public policy issues and is responsible for the formulation of the MHAMD's public policy platform.

MHAMD, a division of Mental Health America, is a federation of local affiliates throughout Maryland in the following regions:

- Frederick County
301-663-0011
- Howard County
410-730-3773
- Lower Shore
410-543-2057
(Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties)
- Metropolitan Baltimore
410-235-1178
- Montgomery County
301-424-0656
- Prince George's County
301-699-2737
- Talbot County
410-822-0444
(Serving the Eastern Shore)
- Washington County
301-733-6555

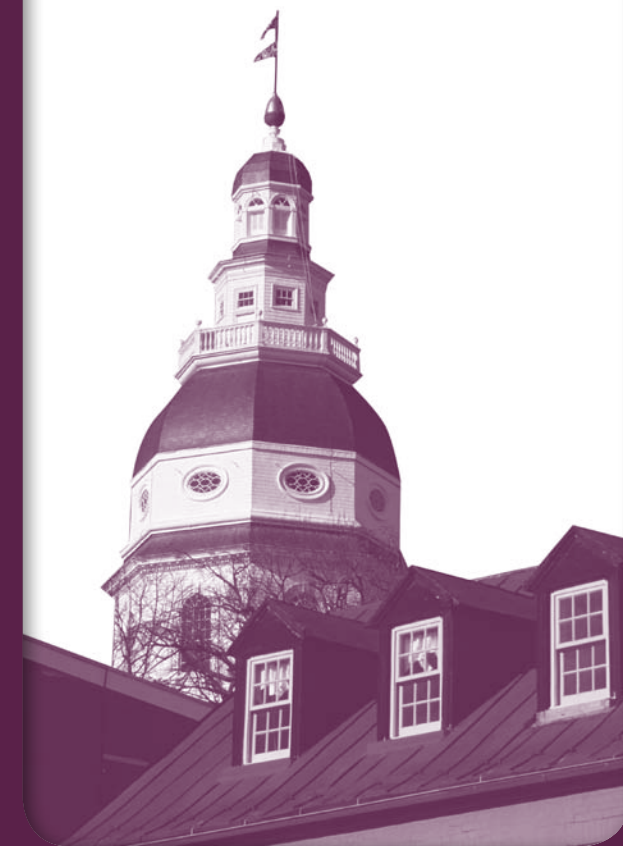
Values

- Justice demands that every person, regardless of disability and other characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, economic status or sexual orientation, has the right and responsibilities of full participation in society.
- Mental health is essential to the development and realization of every person's full potential.
- Sufficient resources need to be applied to a complete range of mental health research, and then effectively applied preventative interventions, education, treatment, and community services design.
- People with mental illness can recover and live healthy productive lives.
- Treatment for mental illness should not have more limits on access and reimbursement than treatment for other illnesses.
- Services must be linguistically and culturally appropriate.
- Children with or at risk of serious emotional disturbances and their families or surrogate families must have access to high quality, community-based, integrated care systems.
- All people should have access to a full array to high quality, community-based, culturally competent, integrated mental health services, regardless of ability to pay.
- All consumers, parents and families are essential participants in providing advocacy, services, education, trianing, planning and evaluation.
- The promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental, emotional and social based problems is the responsibility of every person and social institution in the community.
- MHAMD values inclusivness and cultural competence and envisions broad-based citizen participation as essential to community mental health.

Mental Health Association of Maryland
711 West 40th Street, Suite 460
Baltimore, Maryland 21211
410-235-1178 • 800-572-MHAM (6426)
Fax: 410-235-1180 • www.mhamd.org



Public Policy Goals



2009

Mental Health Association of Maryland 2009 Public Policy Goals

In 2009, MHAMD will advocate for...

Service Access

- maintaining existing levels of care in the Public Mental Health System.
- increased diversion of adults and youth with mental illnesses from the criminal justice system; improved access to treatment for incarcerated individuals; and access to aftercare services upon community re-entry.
- compliance with the federal parity law and expansion of mental health parity for all individuals with private insurance.
- a statewide comprehensive 24/7 crisis response system, for individuals with mental illnesses at risk of homelessness, hospitalization, arrest or suicide.
- improved coordination and treatment for individuals with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
- expansion of affordable, suitable housing options and improved access for individuals with mental illnesses, particularly those who are homeless.
- policies to improve service access for underserved populations that preserve consumer choice, including appropriate use of telemedicine in rural communities.
- access to high quality, culturally competent mental health services that promote recovery, resiliency and best practices in care for all individuals regardless of insurance status.

Consumer Empowerment and Recovery

- policies to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of seclusion and restraint, and to create violence and coercion free environments.
- implementation of consumer self-directed care models and Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP).
- increased employment opportunities.

Children and Youth

- increased availability of school mental health services.
- legislation and policies that support families caring for children with mental health needs and prevent those families from relinquishing custody of their children to obtain mental health services.
- expansion of evidence-based practices in the Department of Juvenile Services.
- a comprehensive, statewide system of care for children and youth with mental health needs, including services for transition aged youth.

Veterans

- improved access to and coordination of care for veterans and their families regardless of home jurisdiction or reason for discharge from military service.

Older Adults

- policies to support the medical and functional needs of people in psychiatric rehabilitation and residential programs so that they may "age in place."
- maintaining adequate funding of cost-saving senior support services that prevent premature institutionalization.
- enhancement of the mental health service package available to recipients of the Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults.

