



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Ehrlich Announces \$13.5 Million Mental Health Grant

BALTIMORE, MD (September 30, 2005) — Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. is proud to announce that Maryland was awarded a Mental Health Transformation Grant of \$13.5 million over five years from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The funding will empower the State to improve the delivery of mental health services in Maryland.

The grant was submitted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Governor's Office for Children, and the Maryland Department of Disabilities and represents the effectiveness of true interagency collaboration.

“My Administration is deeply committed to empowering mental health providers to better care for their patients,” said Governor Ehrlich. “This grant is yet another step in that direction and builds on our considerable successes to date in providing the best mental health care possible in Maryland.”

The Mental Health Transformation Grant, awarded to only seven states in the country, will support an array of infrastructure and service delivery improvement activities to help Maryland build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective mental health and related services. It is unique in that it will allow Maryland to support new and expanded planning and development to promote transformations to systems explicitly designed to foster recovery and meet the multiple needs of consumers.

In addition, the grant builds on the existence of a strong interagency Children's Cabinet to address systems development and transformation issues for children's mental health. The grant's efforts will also be incorporated into the State Disabilities Plan.

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A Transformation Work Group, led by DHMH Secretary S. Anthony McCann, will be created to bring together a coalition of government leaders, including Department of Disabilities Secretary Kristen Cox and Governor's Office for Children Executive Director Arlene F. Lee. Other senior state officials, along with leaders in the consumer, family, and mental health advocacy movements will facilitate deep and lasting change in the way services are delivered.

"I am pleased to advance Governor Ehrlich's vision to end the stigma placed on people with mental health disabilities," said Secretary McCann. "This partnership among DHMH, the Department of Disabilities and the Governor's Office for Children will keep Maryland in the forefront in the delivery of mental health services."

"The Governor's commitment to youth is again evident by this grant's focus on families and children," said Executive Director Lee. "This grant promotes resiliency, health, and recovery for children."

Governor Ehrlich has directed his Cabinet to work together to continue improving and modernizing Maryland's public mental health system.

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