



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2019

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: House Bill No. 103 Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed House Bill No. 103, which seeks to more explicitly define the responsibilities of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) and encourages the creation of uniform standards for community mental health providers who contract with DSAMH. Council endorses the proposed bill and would encourage the development of regulations to formalize provider standards as well as eligibility, admission and discharge procedures for community behavioral health services in accordance with Medicaid rules.

The amended statute would enumerate specific powers and duties of DSAMH, including "[t]he authority to create, implement, and oversee licensing requirements for all mental health treatment programs serving individuals who are 18 years and older" and "[c]oordinate with other divisions within [DHSS] as well as with the Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families." Other enumerated duties include the provision of educational and training programs, making contracts, operating Delaware Psychiatric Center, acquiring or disposing of real property, and soliciting funds from the state and federal government. It also specifically states that DSAMH shall have the authority "to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section." Having uniform licensing standards established by regulation encourages greater consistency and transparency in what is expected of community mental health providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our endorsement and comments. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office should you have any questions.