

The role of government in policy making



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Assignment: The Role of Government in Policy-Making HSM 240 Public Policy Development in Human Services Axia College Instructor: Amy Randle Student: Marlo Palmer July 23, 2010

Assignment: The Role of Government in Policy-Making Human service organizations are governed by a legislative and judiciary system. The judiciary system decides what policy is legal and illegal, and can require the executive or legislative branch to fix it, in some cases the judiciary can impose a remedy.

The legislature system shapes public policy by passing laws, and approving budgets. The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the states social services provider. The Maryland Department of Human Resources consists of the following programs: Foster Care/Adoption, Child Protective Services, Food Assistance, Energy Assistance, Child Support, Medical Assistance, Health Assistance, and Purchase of Care. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010) Each Program under the Maryland Department of Human Resources has policies, procedures, rules, and regulations to follow that has been developed through legislation, state and federal guidelines, house of representative and senate bills, and other legal mandates that set the programs??™ functions.

There are two Maryland laws (Health General Article 4-306, and the Family Law Article 5-711) pertaining to the disclosure of medical records, including mental health records to local departments of social services. (Health General Article, 4-306 went in effect July 1, 1991. The Family Law Article 5-711 went in effect July 1, 1987). Health General Article 4-306. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010) Mandates that health care providers disclose information from medical records, concerning any person (child or

adult) who is being assessed as part of a protective services investigation or to whom services are being provided.

Information is to be shared upon request to a local department of social services representative providing protective services. This law governs all medical records including mental health records. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010) This includes making available copies of medical records that the health care provider assesses to be relevant to the child protective services investigation or provisions of services. This provision also allows for the sharing of information without authorization from the person on whom information is being disclosed. Family Law Article 5-711. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010) This law mandates that medical care providers make copies available of a child's medical record upon request by social services personnel conducting investigations or providing services to a child as a result of a child abuse or neglect report. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010) The Maryland Department of Human Resources day-to-day operations are managed by the Secretary of the State of Maryland. The Secretary of the State of Maryland is appointed by the governor.

The governor briefs the Secretary on how he or she plans to run their administration and the Secretary adhere to those guidelines in adherence to the law. The Secretary becomes the voice of the administration and trickles down the information to the administrators and managers. Every program administrator has to follow COMAR, The Code of Maryland Regulations, is the official compilation of all administrative regulations issued by agencies of the state of Maryland.

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(The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010)COMAR publishes the current Administrative regulations of state agencies and numerous independent regulatory bodies. Executive orders of the Governor that are considered generally permanent in nature. Documents required to be published by the General Assembly.

Other documents permitted to be published by the General Assemblys Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010)The Maryland Court System is in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Human Services; most programs under the Maryland Department of Human Resources have to attend court hearing and work with judges in order to effectively do their job. The law shapes policies and procedure with employees and clients. The law protects employees from discrimination and other under fair practices. The law protects clients??™ rights from discrimination and other unfair practices. (The Maryland Department of Human Resources, 2010)The Maryland Department of Human Resources has to work with agencies and programs throughout the United States in some cases, so they must uphold Maryland law as well as respect the laws, guidelines, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures of other states??™ programs. The laws from state to state may vary on what is consider legal or illegal behavior or practice but through collaborative efforts different state organizations manage to work together to ensure the services to their clients. All human service organizations have to adhere to legislature and judiciary decision and policies.

The judiciary system defines the law, decides what policy is legal and illegal, and assesses the punishment, remedy, or solutions for violation of the law.

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The legislative system defines the agenda of the organization as defined by law. The policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the organization. Who can benefit from the services of the organization and the guidelines to qualify for services. Without the legislative and judiciary system the human service organization will not have the proper organizational system to follow to be in compliance with the law. References: The Maryland Department of Human Resources.

About US. Retrieved July 23, 2010. <http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/AboutUs.php>

The Maryland Department of Human Resources. Organizational Leaders and Vision, Mission and Values . Retrieved July 23, 2010. <http://www.dhr.maryland.gov/secret.php>