

The 1954 Community MH Services Act was inspired by the open hospital movement and required local governments to develop mental health services plans for discharged patients. Unfortunately, the Act only provided 50% of the funding for supports and services, capped total amount well below what was being spent on the state-run hospitals, and required the local planning process to be led by psychiatrists. The state essentially abdicated its responsibility for the proper care and support of people with mental health challenges. A legacy that continues to this day.