

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene develops a health program providing protection to Maryland residents against preventable disease, premature loss of life, and environmental pollution. The Department provides comprehensive health and medical services for the indigent and medically indigent.

It also provides inpatient and outpatient services for the chronically ill, mentally ill, mentally retarded, persons with tuberculosis, and those with narcotic addiction.

It further develops programs for the prevention, control, and treatment of juvenile delinquency.

Finally, it advances the health of all residents through the conduct of special studies, research, cooperation and coordination with other cognizant organizations, and the acquisition and development of adequate health manpower.

In October, 1975, with the approval of the Governor, the Department was reorganized with four Assistant Secretaries on the basis of program similarities and effective delivery of services. Under the Assistant Secretary for Medical Care Programs, there are three Administrations charged with quality health care services to the indigent and medically indigent. The Assistant Secretary for Special Programs is responsible for the Juvenile Services, Mental Retardation, and Developmental Disabilities Administrations. The Alcoholism Control, Drug Abuse, and Mental Hygiene Administrations are assigned to the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Addictions. The Assistant Secretary for Health is responsible for the Environmental Health Laboratory, Preventive Medicine, Aged and Chronically Ill, and Local Health Administrations. Local health Officers usually work through the latter Administration but have access to all Departmental officials as well.

All Department-wide services of a regulatory nature such as Comprehensive Health Planning, Hearings and Regulations, Licensing and Certification, Health Services Cost Review, Community Relations, and Title VI (non-discriminatory practices) are under the Director of Regulatory Services. Various professional support services, available to all levels of organization, are administered by the Coordinator of Professional Services. Regulatory Services and Professional Services are staff organizations of the Secretariat. Also designated as staff organizations are Emergency Medical Services, Attorney General, Government Relations, Special Services, Management Staff, and the Office of Special Operations (Administration).

The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is also responsible for the direction and coordination of numerous boards, commissions, and various citizen advisory groups which are subsequently identified in more appropriate parts of this statement.

Staff: 1975, 9; 1976, 9; 1977, 9.