

## OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND REGULATIONS

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The Office of Hearings and Regulations provides a centralized hearing office where persons may appeal administrative decisions and assures such persons an independent, fair, and impartial hearing, as a result of which recommendations are made to the Secretary for action. The Office conducts quasi-judicial hearings affecting all organizational components of the Department, local health offices, and various institutions on a statewide basis. The Office assures that regulations are drafted, that all health agencies have an opportunity to contribute to such regulations, and that public hearings on contemplated regulations are conducted. The Office also acts as liaison to the Board of Review of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

## DIVISION OF LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

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The Division of Licensing and Certification has responsibility for licensure of all hospitals and health-related institutions in the State of Maryland. Additionally, the Division is responsible for certification recommendations for all facilities participating in Federal Title XVIII and XIX (Medicare and Medicaid) Programs. The Division inspects, licenses, and certifies. It also provides consultation and education for all health facilities. The Division is responsible for initiating administrative action against those facilities not in compliance with State rules and regulations. All responsibilities and functions have as their prime goal the upgrading of care in Maryland health facilities.

## HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION

*Chairperson:* Alvin M. Powers, 1979

Orville Wright, 1979; Natalie Bouquet, 1980; David P. Scheffenacker, 1981; Dr. Carl J. Schramm, 1981; John Thomas Parran, Jr., 1982; Roland Smoot, M.D., 1982.

Harold A. Cohen, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

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The Health Services Cost Review Commission was established by Chapter 627, Acts of 1971, to monitor all matters, defined or implied, relating to the fiscal affairs of Maryland's hospitals and related institutions. Such monitoring consists of the audit and review of data and analysis of appropriate and valid relationships of both aggregate and unit costs and revenues. This enables the Commission to cause the public disclosure of each hospital's financial position, verified total costs incurred in rendering health services, and the level of reasonableness of rates as determined by the Commission's review and certification. It also provides information as to the adequacy of each institution's financial resources to meet its financial requirements and for the Commission to concern itself with solutions when these resources are inadequate. Beginning July 1, 1974, all purchasers of hospital health care services are assured that total costs are reasonably related to the total services offered by the hospital, that aggregate rates are set in reasonable relationship to the hospital's aggregate costs, and that rates are set equitably among all purchasers of services without undue discrimination. Beginning July 1, 1975, all purchasers of health care services supplied by nursing homes and such other related institutions are provided assurances similar to those applicable to hospital health care services (Code 1957, Art. 43, secs. 568H-568Z).

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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The Office of Community Relations has the responsibility for the Department's minority community relations activities and to insure that equal opportunity in employment is provided in accordance with directives of the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the federal government.

## OFFICE OF TITLE VI COMPLIANCE

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