

Wilbert L. Walker, *Deputy Director*

H. Branch Warfield, *Assistant Director for Social Services*

Pasquale Panaggio, Jr., *Assistant Director for Income Maintenance*

Frank J. Bien, *Staff Assistant to the State Board*

Board of Social Services

Chairperson: Lynn Kapiloff, 1983

Secretary: Robert S. Zetzer, 1981

Dr. Harriet Trader, 1979; Dr. Vera Wentworth, 1979; James R. Martin, Jr., 1981; Janet Rosen, 1981; Jules Berman, 1983; John Days, 1983; Robert G. Jacobs, 1979.

11 South Street
Baltimore 21202

Telephone: 383-3602

The Social Services Administration was originally established as the State Department of Public Welfare by Chapter 99, Acts of 1939, to supersede the Board of State Aid and Charities established by Chapter 679, Acts of 1900. By Chapter 148, Acts of 1967, the General Assembly modernized the law, bringing it into conformance with practice and clarifying the responsibilities of the boards and directors of the State and local departments. The name of the agency was changed to the Department of Social Services by Chapter 702, Acts of 1968. The Administration adopted its present name by Chapter 96, Acts of 1970 (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 205F (b)).

The Director of the Social Services Administration is appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources and serves at his pleasure. The State Director is responsible for the organization and administration of the Social Services Administration and for the appointment, under the Merit System Law, of all its personnel (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 2).

The State Board of Social Services is composed of nine members appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources with the approval of the Governor, one of whom the Secretary designates as chairperson. All members serve six-year terms, so arranged that three terms expire on June 30 of every second year. The State Board gives advice and counsel and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Human Resources and to the State Director of Social Services.

In Baltimore City, the Mayor appoints nine citizens to a local social services commission for staggered six-year terms. The Mayor and the Commissioner of Health serve as ex officio members. In each county, members of the local board of social services are appointed by the local governing authority. Each of these boards consists of nine members. One of these members must be a member of the local governing body, designated on July 1 of each year to serve as the ex officio member of the local social services board. Members of the local social services boards are appointed for three-year terms, and no appointee may serve for more than two consecutive terms (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 1, 2, 4, 14, 14A).

The Social Services Administration is the central coordinating and directing agency of all social service and public assistance activities in the State, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Public Assistance, and Food Stamps. It has responsibility for the certification of low income families for Medical Assistance. In agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Social Services Administration administers the food stamp program, which is available in all political subdivisions of the State whose governing bodies have agreed to provide certain administrative costs (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 3).

In Baltimore City and in each county there is a local department of social services whose director administers these social service and public assistance activities within the respective locality subject to the supervision, direction, and control of the State Administration. These activities include: foster care services; adoption services to the natural parents, the child, and the adoptive parents so that in a legally responsible way the best interest of all concerned may be served; licensing of family homes giving care for not more than four children during part of the day; and protective services on behalf of families with children who are suspected of being neglected or abused. Professional persons and others concerned with the welfare of children are required to report suspected child abuse to their local social services department or to local law enforcement agencies. Examples of additional services provided by local departments of social services are referrals for family planning, homemaker services that provide certain in-home services to help maintain and strengthen family life, services to single parents, and referrals to the Work Incentive Program operated by the Employment Security Administration (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 19-32A; Art. 16, secs. 67-88; Art. 27, sec. 11A).