

The State Department of Public Welfare is the central, coordinating and directing agency of all welfare activities in the State, including aid to dependent children, old age assistance, child welfare services, and any other welfare activities, financed in whole or in part by the State or Federal Government (Acts 1949, Ch. 108). The Governor is authorized to designate the Chairman of the Board, and to arrange the terms of the members so that they will hold office for staggered terms of six years, the terms of three members expiring on June 1st of every second year (Acts 1949, Ch. 12).

In each county there is a County Welfare Board, constituting an administrative department of the local government, with authority to administer under the supervision, direction and control of the State Department, the welfare activities within each county, including the care of neglected, dependent and delinquent children. Each County Board consists of six persons, who are appointed for six-year terms by the Board of County Commissioners. Each year the County Commissioners designate one of its members to serve on the Welfare Board (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 12, 13).

The duties of the Department include the investigation of the system of public and private institutions, organizations and agencies of a charitable nature in the State, including those which receive part of their income from the State, except those placed by law under the supervision of another State agency. Prior to the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Director furnishes to the Governor a report which includes activities of the Department, the conditions of all charitable institutions, organizations, and agencies, excepting hospitals receiving financial aid from the State, and recommendations as to appropriations. All monies appropriated to institutions, organizations, and agencies, excepting hospitals, are paid on a per capita basis at the rates, and subject to the rules and regulations, established by the State Board of Public Welfare (Acts 1947, Ch. 108).

The Department has the administration of the laws regarding the placement of children in this State by out-of-State agencies. It licenses agencies, institutions, and individuals having the care and custody of minors; these include child placement agencies and foster homes for minors (Acts 1949, Ch. 14). Individuals not regularly engaged in the business of providing foster homes for minors, who receive into their home one or more minors, other than children related to them by blood or marriage, must register with the State Department of Public Welfare their intention to receive such minor, stating whether or not the purpose is to adopt (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 88A, sec. 16H).

The State Department of Public Welfare is responsible for the supervision, direction and control of the four State training schools. In developing the program within each training school, including provision for after-care supervision, the Department establishes rules and regulations, standards of care, policies of admission, transfer and discharge, and may order changes in the policies, conduct or management of the four State training schools. Subject to these limitations, each of the schools is under the general management of its Board of Managers. The Governor appoints nine members for staggered terms