

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

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The Department of Mental Hygiene was established by Chapter 685, Acts of 1949 to supersede the Board of Mental Hygiene. This Board, created by Chapter 29, Acts of 1922 as part of a reorganization of the Executive Branch, had carried on and expanded the functions of the State Lunacy Commission, established by Chapter 487, Acts of 1886, to inspect public and private institutions for the insane and to advise their Boards of Managers. The Act of 1949 abolished not only the Board of Mental Hygiene but also the separate governing boards of the State mental hospitals and gave to the new department full and plenary powers over, and supervision of, all matters relating to the custody, care, and treatment of persons of unsound mind. The Department supervises and licenses all institutions, public, private, or corporate in which mental patients are detained (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 59).

The Department is directed by a Commissioner, certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Commissioner is responsible for discharging the functions assigned by the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene, and for the administration of the Department.

The Commissioner appoints, with the approval of the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene, Superintendents of Spring Grove State Hospital, Springfield State Hospital, The Eastern Shore State Hospital, Crownsville State Hospital, Rosewood State Hospital, Henryton State Hospital, The Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, as well as any other hospitals which may come within his administration. Each Superintendent except the Superintendents of Rosewood and Henryton State Hospitals must be a trained psychiatrist. The Superintendent of Rosewood must be a physician, preferably qualified in psychiatry or pediatrics and with experience in the field of mental retardation (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 59, sec. 19).

Division of Medical Services

The Division of Medical Services advises, consults with and directs the staffs of the several State institutions concerning psychiatric services, psychiatric education and training, nursing, rehabilitation, and social work. The Director of the Division of Medical Services, who