

must be a member of the local governing body, designated on July 1 of year to serve as the ex officio member of the local welfare board. By Chapter 148, Acts of 1967, members of the local welfare boards are to be appointed for three-year terms. No appointee may serve for more than two consecutive terms (Code 1957, 1964 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, 14A, 16).

The Department is authorized to establish a central registry of records for the purpose of locating deserting or absent parents of children who are likely, or liable to be, recipients of public assistance or foster care. The Department administers the child care laws that regulate child placement in Maryland. It licenses agencies and institutions having the care and custody of minors. The local departments of public welfare offer adoption services to the natural parents, the child, and the adoptive parents so that in a legally responsible way the best interests of all concerned may be served. The family day care licensing law places responsibility with the State Department, through the local departments of public welfare, to license family homes giving care for not more than four children for a part of the twenty-four hour day. Agencies giving this service must be licensed by the State Department. Consistent with the State laws and juvenile court regulations, the local welfare departments provide needed protective services on behalf of families with children who are suspected of being neglected or abused. Professional persons concerned with the welfare of children are required to report suspected child abuse to their local welfare department (Code 1957, 1964 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 5A, 19-32A; 1966 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 16, secs. 67-88; 1967 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 27, sec. 11A).

The State Department of Public Welfare carries the responsibility for the development and the coordination of its services, for determining the factors which seem to contribute to social and economic problems, and for recommending changes or new programs to meet some of the problems. In carrying out this responsibility, the State Department of Public Welfare calls upon the local welfare departments for leadership within a community and for participation in Statewide activities. Examples of such services are the referrals for family planning, homemaker services which provide certain in-home services to help maintain and strengthen family life, and the work experience and training program which helps to prepare needy people for employment.

Advisory Council on Child Welfare

Chairman: Mrs. Lewis Rumford II

J. Donn Aiken, Department of Employment Security; Mrs. Harry Friedman; Mrs. Charles D. Harris, State Board of Public Welfare; William H. Koelber, State Department of Juvenile Services; Sarah L. Leiter, State Department of Education; David Nurco, State Department of Mental Hygiene; Judge George B. Rasin, Jr., the Courts; Rev. J. Francis Stafford; Jean R. Stifter, M.D., State Department of Health; Mrs. G. Luther Washington; William W. Wenner; *Vacancy*.