

agency is responsible for the implementation of the Appropriateness Review Program mandated under federal law, which requires a review of all health care services offered in existing institutions once every five years to determine their appropriateness. Finally, Title XVI of Public Law 93-641, as amended, replaced previous federal hospital construction legislation (known as the Hill-Burton Program) with a broader program to modernize existing facilities and to develop outpatient facilities, rather than solely to construct new hospitals. Responsibility for administering this aspect of Title XVI is also a function of the Maryland Health Planning and Development Agency's Program.

There are five regional Health Systems Agencies—representing Western Maryland, Montgomery County, Southern Maryland, Central Maryland, and the Eastern Shore—that coordinate their autonomous yet interdependent health planning functions with the State agency. All such regional agencies have full designation by the federal government and carry out their responsibilities under federal law, including Appropriateness Review.

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council, formerly the Advisory Council, is empowered to approve the Annual State Health Plan required by Public Law 93-641, as amended, as well as the budget of the Health Systems Agencies. The Statewide Health Coordinating Council also has approval power over certain federal programs under the Public Health Services Act, the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970, and the Community Mental Centers Act. In addition, the Council has an advisory role in regulatory programs and the operation of the State agency generally. The full Statewide Health Coordinating Council meets six times each year, but six standing committees meet regularly to carry out Statewide Health Coordinating Council responsibilities. The membership of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council is composed of health providers and consumers appointed by the Governor.

All responsibilities and functions served by and through the actions of the Maryland Comprehensive Health Planning Agency prior to May 29, 1978, are now the responsibilities and functions of the Maryland Health Planning and Development Agency. The titular change of the Agency effective May 29, 1978, from the Comprehensive Health Planning Agency to the Maryland Health Planning and Development Agency in no way diminished the Agency's principal responsibility to develop the Health Plan of Maryland and to facilitate and authorize the planned development of

health resources and services to the citizens of Maryland (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 59C-59L; Art. 43, sec. 559a-l).

OFFICE OF REGULATORY SERVICES

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The Office of Regulatory Services has four components, consisting of the licensing, certification, or accreditation of health facilities and community health programs, the examination and licensing of health professionals, assurance of equal access to health care services, and advocacy for developmentally disabled persons in Maryland. Each of these responsibilities has as its primary goal the upgrading of health care services in Maryland.

DIVISION OF LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

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As a major component of the Office of Regulatory Services and the Assistant Secretariat for Health Regulation and Policy Analysis, the Licensing and Certification Division is responsible for licensure of all hospitals and health-related institutions in Maryland. Additionally, the Division is responsible for certification recommendations for all facilities participating in the Medicaid and Medicare Programs. The Division inspects facilities and provides consultation and education for all health facility staffs. The Division is responsible for initiating administrative action against those facilities not in compliance with State rules and regulations.

OFFICE OF TITLE VI COMPLIANCE

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As part of the regulatory services function, this Office exercises Department-wide responsibilities in assuring that no client of any federally-assisted program will be discriminated against because of race, color, or national origin.