

pervise, and guide the College (Code Education Article, sec. 16-507(a)).

## **OFFICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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The Office for Children and Youth was created by Chapter 426, Acts of 1978. The basic purpose of the Office for Children and Youth is to examine programs, services, and plans for children and youth. The accomplishment of these purposes precludes operation of programs and services. Rather, it is to assist operating agencies, local governments, and organizations in carrying out their functions efficiently, economically, and effectively and to assist families and the general public in knowing and obtaining information about programs, services, and plans for children and youth. The Office consists of a Director, twenty-four local Children's Councils, and the State Advisory Committee for Children and Youth. Within the Office is the Governor's Youth Advisory Council, formerly associated with the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth, Department of Human Resources.

The Director for Children and Youth is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is directly responsible to him. Among other duties, the Director examines programs, services, and plans for children from birth through age eighteen to identify duplications and gaps in service delivery, program resources, inefficiencies, and unmet needs. In regard to children's programs and services, the Director secures and analyzes Departmental plans and budget requests, reviews Federal funds used by and available to the State, collates relevant Governor's Budget items, issues impact statements, and makes recommendations to the Governor and appropriate Department heads on planning and expenditures. The Director serves as liaison with Departments and local governments to coordinate services and to make the best use of existing resources to effect an efficient and systematic delivery of services. With representative local Children's Councils and other child advocacy groups, including parents, the Director receives advice on resources, needs, and priorities in different localities. In addition, the Director provides public information on children's services in the State, advises the legislature on the needs of children and their families, and prepares an annual report to the Governor and the public.

The Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor, consists of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Secretary of Human Resources, and the Superintendent of Education or their designees; one representative from each of the twenty-four local Children's Councils, and twelve appointed members. Of the members initially appointed twelve shall serve for a term of one year, twelve shall serve for a term of two years, and twelve shall serve for a term of three years. After the expiration of the initial terms, members are appointed for a term of three years. The Advisory Committee biennially reviews the operation of the Office to identify issues and priorities, and reports its findings to the Director.

Local Children's Councils exist in each county and in Baltimore City. Each Council is appointed by the chief executive officer of that subdivision and includes representatives of the local departments of health, education, social services and juvenile services, and members appointed at large. One-half of the members initially appointed serve for two-year terms; the remainder serve for three-year terms. After the expiration of the initial terms members are appointed for three-year terms. Within their jurisdictions, the Children's Councils examine programs, services, and plans for children; secure and analyze Departmental plans and budget requests affecting children's programs and services; review the use and availability of Federal funds; identify, document, and communicate the needs, resources, and priorities to the local chief executive and to the Director of the Office for Children and Youth; and provide public information on children's programs and services.

## **GOVERNOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Kenneth Brown, *Council President*

Tracy Rone, *Vice-President*

Amy Jarvis, *Secretary*

Howard Bluth, *Executive Director*

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The Governor's Youth Advisory Council was created within the Department of Human Resources by Executive Order in 1971. It was transferred to the Office for Children and Youth by the Acting Governor in December 1978.