

agers. The 1949 law abolished not only the Board of Mental Hygiene, but also the separate governing boards of the State mental hospitals, and gave the Department of Mental Hygiene responsibility for the custody, care, and treatment of persons of unsound mind.

The Administration is headed by a Director, certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Director is responsible for duties assigned by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and for supervision of the hospitals and facilities within the Administration.

Under the provisions of the Maryland Community Mental Health Services Act of 1966, the Director of Mental Hygiene, with the approval of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, is empowered to make State grants-in-aid to further community mental health services (Chapter 125, Acts of 1966). The Director supervises the programs receiving these grants-in-aid. The Act also provided for the establishment of local mental health advisory committees (Code Health-General Article, sec. 10-208).

To improve continuity of care between community and hospital programs, the Administration has adopted a regionalized structure, consistent with State HSA designated areas. Assistant Directors serve the Eastern, Southern and Central Maryland areas. Their regional offices have allowed for the implementation of policies that have shortened length of hospital stays, improved community mental health programs for the severely psychiatrically ill, and increased the continuity of care between the hospital and community programs.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE

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The Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene was created within the Mental Hygiene Administration, by Chapter 746, Acts of 1976. It advises the

Mental Hygiene Administration in carrying out policies regarding the social, economic, and medical problems of mental hygiene.

The Council consists of eighteen members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms from public and private agencies and groups concerned with mental hygiene. The Council selects its own officers (Code Health-General Article, secs. 10-301 through 10-307).

WALTER P. CARTER CENTER

Robert G. Jacobs, *Administrator*

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Services available at the Walter P. Carter Center were developed in anticipation of the Community Mental Health Center, which has been constructed adjacent to the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore. In 1967 the Center began offering some community mental health services to all residents within a designated area of Baltimore City. These services now include inpatient care, outpatient care, partial hospitalization, and emergency services. A contract with the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry allows for these expanded services.

At present, the Center maintains three units outside of the Center that provide treatment for adults, adolescents, and children. Psychiatric emergency service is available to area residents twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Consultation and education services are provided to various community agencies.

The mental retardation facility housed at the Center provides diagnosis and evaluation services, particularly to educate families of retardates and to assist them in formulating and implementing lifetime service plans. The facility is licensed for 113 patients (Code Health-General Article, sec. 10-406).

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD FOR WALTER P. CARTER CENTER

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