

Administrations. The Office of Education and Training for Addiction Services and a Deinstitutionalization Staff and Preventive Law Staff also report to the Assistant Secretary.

The Assistant Secretary coordinates the development and implementation of policies, procedures, regulations, and standards that assure delivery of improved health services. The Assistant Secretary develops and promotes collaborative working relationships among the organizations and programs assigned as well as with other units within the Department.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR ADDICTION SERVICES

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The Office of Education and Training for Addiction Services (OETAS) was created in 1976. It provides alcohol and drug abuse training for health care workers and administrators who are in contact with addicts. The Office's primary responsibility is to provide this training to agencies functioning under the auspices of the Alcoholism Control Administration and the Drug Abuse Administration. It also provides addiction training to community organizations, as well as to other State and local agencies, such as local school systems. Training is offered in courses, workshops, seminars, and specially designed agency programs (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 206D).

OFFICE OF CENTRAL COMMITMENT

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The Office of Central Commitment implements a comprehensive services delivery program for youth committed to the custody of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 3-801 through 3-833). The Office develops departmental placement plans and services for youth in coordination with the Juvenile Services, Mental Hygiene, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Local Health, Drug Abuse, Alcoholism Control, and Preventive Medicine Administrations.

MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION

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The Mental Hygiene Administration, formerly the Department of Mental Hygiene, was established in 1949 to supersede the Board of Mental Hygiene (Chapter 685, Acts of 1949). The Board, created by Chapter 29, Acts of 1922, had carried on and expanded the functions of the State Lunacy Commission, established in 1886, to inspect public and private institutions for the insane and to advise their boards of managers. 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 mentally ill persons.

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 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. Assistant Directors serve Eastern, Western, Southern and Central Maryland. Their regional offices implement policies to shorten length of hospital stays, and improve community mental health programs for the severely psychiatrically ill.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE

Chairperson: Marjorie Sue Diehl, 1987