

Pamela Brewington, 1987; Philip L. Jones, 1987; F. Perry Smith, Jr., 1987.

Ex officio: Deborah Lewis-Idema, *designee of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.*

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In 1982 the State Health Resources Planning Commission was established to promote the development of a health care system that provides access to quality health care at a reasonable cost for all citizens (Chapter 108, Acts of 1982). The Commission plans the development of quality health services within each health service area to meet current and future health care needs; identifies the resources essential to meet defined needs; promotes through plans and policies appropriate use of those resources; and advocates policies and systems for efficient access to services, including acute, long-term, mental health, primary care, and community alternatives. The Commission coordinates its work with the State Health Services Cost Review Commission, and provides for assessment of the impact of plans and projects on total health care costs to Maryland and to its citizens. Among major Commission programs are preparation of the State Health Plan and conducting the Certificate of Need program to assure that facilities meet standards of public need before building or constructing new services.

The Commission consists of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or his designee, and thirteen members appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. Five members represent local health planning agencies, six represent health care providers, and two represent the general public. The Executive Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary.

The law creating the Commission also established local health planning agencies to serve gubernatorially designated health service areas. These agencies are required to assure broad citizen representation on their boards and in their activities, to develop local health plans, to provide input into the development of statewide criteria and standards for Certificate of Need and health planning, and to provide input into evidentiary hearings on the evaluation of Certificate of Need applications. There are at present five such agencies. They are: 1) Health Systems Agency of Western Maryland, serving Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick counties; 2) Montgom-

ery County Health Systems Agency; 3) Southern Maryland Health Systems Agency, serving Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties; 4) Central Maryland Health Systems Agency, serving Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties; and 5) Health Planning Council of the Eastern Shore, serving Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties (Code Health-General Article, secs. 19-103 through 19-122).

## OFFICE OF REGULATORY SERVICES

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The Office of Regulatory Services licenses, certifies, or accredits health facilities and community health programs. It examines and licenses health professionals and assures equal access to health care services. It also registers establishments authorized to manufacture, dispense, or administer controlled dangerous substances.

As advocate for the developmentally disabled, the Office furnishes administrative support and guidance to the Developmental Disabilities Council.

## DIVISION OF LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION

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The Licensing and Certification Division licenses all hospitals and health-related institutions in Maryland. The Division is also responsible for certification recommendations for all facilities participating in the Medicaid and Medicare Programs. It inspects facilities and provides consultation and education for all health facility staffs. The Division initiates administrative action against those facilities not in compliance with State rules and regulations.

## EQUAL ACCESS COMPLIANCE OFFICE

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As part of the regulatory services function, this Office exercises Department-wide responsibilities to ensure that no client of any federally assisted