

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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The Department of Human Resources was created in 1970 as the Department of Employment and Social Services (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970). It adopted its present name in 1975 (Chapter 382, Acts of 1975).

The oldest functions of the Department involve public assistance and employment services, including unemployment compensation. While county relief efforts date back to colonial times, the State did not assume public assistance responsibilities until this century. The Department's responsibilities for public assistance originated with the Board of State Aid and Charities in 1900 (Chapter 679, Acts of 1900). This board was superseded by the Department of Public Welfare in 1939 (Chapter 99, Acts of 1939). In 1968 the Department was renamed the Department of Social Services (Chapter 702, Acts of 1968).

The Department of Human Resources' responsibilities in the area of employment stem from the Depression, when the first public employment offices in Maryland were established as a result of federal law. In 1936 the State authorized an Unemployment Compensation Board. During World War II, from January 1942 to November 1946, the Maryland State Employment Service was loaned to the federal government and operated by the War Manpower Commission. In 1946 the Service was returned to State control. Along with the Unemployment Compensation Board, the Service was put under the Department of Employment Security in 1947. That Department in 1970 was renamed the Employment Security Administration.

The Department of Human Resources consists of four administrations: Social Services, Child Support Enforcement, Income Maintenance, and Community Services.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson: Samuel J. Kecker, 1987

Sr. Catherine Arata, 1985; Michael Cenci, 1985; Bailey E. Fine, 1985; Herman M. Gonzalez, 1985; Barbara L. Himmelrich, 1985; Margaret E. Myers, 1985; Thomas P. Perkins III, 1985; John W. Rhoads, 1985; Ruth Spector, 1985; Burt Booth, 1986; Arnold E. Gillespie, 1986; Winette Sherrard Hynson, 1986; Carol E. Jordan, 1986; Ruth U. Keeton, 1986; Victor C. March, 1986; Michael Reisch, 1986; Carl William Struever, 1986; Richard B. Willson, 1986; Weptanomah Carter, 1987; Rev. William E. Johnson, 1987; James H. McLean, 1987; Bishop John Ricard, 1987; Edward E. Watkins, 1987; James L. Zamoiski, 1987.

The Advisory Council was created by Chapter 421, Acts of 1984. The Council advises the Secre-

tary of Human Resources on program plans, grant levels, eligibility requirements, and the Department budget. The Council also acts as a forum for public comment and implements procedures to keep local boards informed of Council and other local board activities. The twenty-five members are appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Wanda L. Dobson, *Director*

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The Office of Public Information coordinates contacts between the communications media and the Department, issues news releases and other printed materials, and produces exhibits and audio visual presentations to inform the media and the public about DHR's programs and services.