

At the request of the General Assembly, the Governor appointed this Task Force in 1981 (Joint Resolution no. 29, Acts of 1980). The Task Force is to identify the health, social, educational, and economic needs of the estimated fifteen percent of the State's citizens suffering from arthritis and related diseases. It will assess the economic impact resulting from arthritis in both the public and private sectors and ascertain cost effective means to meet existing needs. The Task Force is further charged to determine how State government agencies can work together with the private sector to use present resources and capabilities to meet the needs of Maryland's arthritic population.

ASBESTOS INSULATION PROBLEMS TASK FORCE

Chairperson: Earl F. Seboda, *Secretary of General Services*

Frederick L. Dewberry, *Secretary of Licensing and Regulation*; David W. Hornbeck, *State Superintendent of Schools*; Constance Lieder, *Secretary of State Planning*; H. Louis Stettler III, *Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning*; John F. X. O'Brien, *Secretary of Personnel*; John S. Toll, *President, University of Maryland*; Adele Wilzack, *Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene*.

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The Governor appointed the Asbestos Insulation Problems Task Force in 1981. The Task Force examined potential health hazards and problems posed by asbestos in State government buildings. In its January 8, 1982, report to the Governor, it recommended ways of protecting people in State buildings from these hazards and problems.

The Governor accepted all of the Task Force's recommendations and directed the Secretary of Personnel to implement them. The Secretary of Personnel formed an advisory committee to create an implementation plan. The committee was composed of persons who, incidental to their employment, work with asbestos; and representatives from labor, operating departments, and staff agencies. The Secretary of Personnel submitted the implementation plan to the Governor at the end of 1982.

One of the Task Force's recommendations was that it be allowed to reconvene should the need arise to further address one of its recommendations concerning an employee's right to refuse to work in areas where asbestos may prove to be a potential

health hazard. The Task Force reconvened to resolve this issue in September 1984.

TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Chairperson: Charles I. Shubin, M.C.

Vice-Chairperson: Gerald W. Winegrad

John L. Bovaird; Eric M. Fine, M.D.; Linda Heisner; Sheila Ellis Hixson; Susan C. Jablinske; Peter J. Lally; Dianne Madoni; Sandra A. O'Connor; Marian L. Patterson; Eileen J. Schiller; Col. James P. Stromberg; Thomas M. Yeager.

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At the request of the General Assembly, the Governor formed the Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect in 1983 (Joint Resolution no. 10, Acts of 1983). The Task Force is to study the State's current response to the problems of child abuse and neglect. It will examine the availability of models to prevent abuse and neglect and review other states' successful programs which might be used in Maryland. The Task Force will evaluate the effectiveness of existing community resources for the detection and treatment of child abuse and sexual abuse of children, including reimbursement for emergency medical treatment for suspected victims and training programs for professionals who work with children or families.

The Task Force will examine the State's ability to respond to increasing demands for child welfare and family services resulting from increased child abuse and neglect. It will study the effectiveness of judicial and legislative efforts to deal with abuse and neglect, and consider the relationship between agencies responsible for custody, placement, and treatment. The adequacy of current staffing levels in local child protective services and foster care divisions, as well as the manner in which child welfare policies affect children who are at risk of abuse or neglect, will also be examined. In addition, the Task Force is to study existing barriers that may inhibit the reporting of incidents of abuse and neglect and develop recommendations to realistically encourage reporting.

The Task Force reported to the Governor in December, 1983, and will submit a final report by July 1985.