

the Governor (Executive Order 01.01.1977.07). Established in accordance with federal statute (P.L. 94-103), the Advocacy Unit became the State's official agency designated to protect and advocate the rights of the developmentally disabled in Maryland. The designation permitted the Unit to qualify for federal funding under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 95-603). By that funding, the program provides legal representation for developmentally disabled persons with legal problems in areas such as abuse and neglect, discrimination, special education, and public benefit entitlements.

In 1984, the Board of Directors renamed the Advocacy Unit as the Maryland Disability Law Center. This change in name reflected the fact that the office was no longer representing just the developmentally disabled, those whose disability becomes evident before age 22. Instead, with expanded responsibilities, the Center had become a statewide legal services program for those disabled by impairments ranging from Alzheimer's disease to cerebral palsy, from mental retardation to learning disabilities, and from mental illness to hearing impairments.

The Center is funded by a number of sources in addition to its federal "protection and advocacy" grant. The Maryland Legal Services Corporation funds the Center to represent indigent disabled persons, throughout the State, in noncriminal matters. The Department of Human Resources funds the Center's representation of handicapped children whose parents or relatives fail to provide proper care and attention. The Department of Human Resources also funds the Center to represent disabled adults who are at risk of being placed in an institution.

Since 1984, the Center has received financial support from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to represent residents in State mental health facilities. The Department also funds the Center to protect mentally retarded persons from abuse and neglect and to represent disabled adults who are denied Social Security benefits. In addition, the Center receives funds from the State Department of Education to represent disabled persons who are dissatisfied with vocational rehabilitation services.

A non-profit private corporation, the Center is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. The Governor appoints the Board's members.

TASK FORCE ON EATING DISORDERS

Chairperson: David M. Roth, Ph.D.

Catherine A. Albright; Arnold E. Andersen, M.D.; F. Vernon Boozer; Dorothy A. Dobbyn; Joyce Kronthal; Karen B. Lanpher, Ph.D.; Carol Loomis; Mary S. Pabst; Brenda A. Sigall, Ph.D.

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At the request of the General Assembly, the Governor created the Task Force on Eating Disorders in October 1986 (Joint Resolution no. 27, Acts of 1986). The Task Force will determine to what extent Marylanders suffer from eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia. The Task Force is to consider also how these disorders might be recognized and treated.

By September 1987, the Task Force will submit a report of its findings.

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

Chairperson: James E. McClellan

Roland F. Behnke; Christine M. Bloom; Alan L. Brauer, Sr.; Martha Clark; Bernie Fowler; Edwin R. Fry; Karen Sue Hamilton; John J. Lancaster, Jr.; George H. Littrell, Jr.; David Miller; Dr. Mortimer Neufville; Edward W. Quidas, Jr.; Dr. Jerome J. Ryscavage; Dr. Ronald J. Seibel; Steen G. Westerberg.

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In October 1986, the Governor created the Commission on Education in Agriculture (Joint Resolution no. 28, Acts of 1986). The Commission is to study programs and policies concerned with vocational agricultural education and recommend program improvements at all educational levels.

The Commission will report its findings and recommendations by September 1987.