

Although the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene was created in 1969, its historical development began in the nineteenth century. The Department of Health was established in 1874 (Chapter 200, Acts of 1874). The separate development of the Department of Mental Hygiene, however, dates from 1886, when the State Lunacy Commission was formed (Chapter 487, Acts of 1886). In 1922, the Commission was replaced by the Board of Mental Hygiene (Chapter 29, Acts of 1922). The Board, in turn, was succeeded by the Department of Mental Hygiene in 1949 (Chapter 685, Acts of 1949). By 1961, the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene was created to maintain authority over the Department of Health and the Department of Mental Hygiene (Chapter 841, Acts of 1961). The present Department of Health and Mental Hygiene replaced the State Board in 1969 (Chapter 77, Acts of 1969).

The Department protects the inherent right of Marylanders to a healthful environment and a high level of physical, mental, and social health. Through the development of a comprehensive, continuous and accessible system of health services, the Department promotes health and prevents disease and disability.

Many programs are, by their nature, public functions and cannot be performed effectively by the private sector. Prime among these is the responsibility for dealing with epidemiological hazards to health, such as communicable diseases, and the organization of community efforts to prevent or control their impact.

Local health departments are the focal point in the delivery of services. Overseen by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, twenty-four local health departments report to the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services and have access to all Department officials as well.

The Department also provides or purchases direct care services. These primarily include residential and outpatient care for the mentally ill; the mentally retarded; the chronically ill, including those with tuberculosis; the impaired elderly; and persons with addictive conditions. Several health services for the community as well as comprehensive health care services for the indigent and medically indigent are provided directly by the Department.

In 1987, the Department was reorganized under deputy secretaries responsible for three distinct programmatic areas: Operations; Public Health Services; and Policy, Financing, and Regulation.

Informational brochures and other publications useful to the public are available either at no cost or for a nominal fee by contacting the appropriate Department agency.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is responsible for the functions of the Department. The Secretary also directs and coordinates numerous boards, commissions, and various citizen advisory groups.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Chairperson: Mildred L. Tyssowski, 1991

Appointed by Governor with Senate advice & consent: Carol Kehring, 1989; Thelma M. Millard, 1989; Jane S. Buckley, 1990; Richard K. C. Hsieh, Ph.D., 1990; Joan H. Phillips, R.N., 1990; Alan S. Cohen, 1991.

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Baltimore, MD 21201

225-6972

The Board of Review was established in 1969 (Chapter 77, Acts of 1969). The Board makes recommendations to the Secretary on the operation and administration of the Department. The Board also hears appeals as provided by law.

The Board's seven members are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent (Code Health—General Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-207).

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

John M. Staubitz, *Deputy Secretary*

201 W. Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

225-6510

The Deputy Secretary for Operations provides support services to the Department. The Deputy Secretary plans, organizes, directs, coordinates, and evaluates a range of professional, technical, and administrative services. These include Department-wide support services in financial planning, expenditure control, personnel management, data processing, general services, grants administration, and capital construction. The Deputy Secretary also aids the Secretary in addressing matters that involve other State agencies, the legislature, the gubernatorial staff, and the federal government.