

under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Council was placed within the former Office for Handicapped Individuals in 1987 (Executive Order 01.01.1987.08). The Council now is part of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities.

The Council serves as an advocate for persons with developmental disabilities. The Council also develops the State plan on developmental disabilities and monitors, reviews, and evaluates its implementation. Annually, the Council awards funding for demonstration projects that enable people with developmental disabilities to become independent, productive citizens in their communities.

The Governor appoints the Council. At least half its members are persons with developmental disabilities or their parents or guardians, or immediate relatives or guardians of persons with mentally impairing developmental disabilities. Of these, at least one-third must be persons with developmental disabilities (U.S. Code, Title 42, sec. 6024).

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Paul Rendine, *Chairperson*, 1994
Marian S. Vessels, *Executive Director*
(410) 333-2263

The Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities originated in 1947 as the Governor's Committee to Promote Employment of the Handicapped. It was renamed the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in 1979. In 1980, the Committee was placed under the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the State Department of Education (Executive Order 01.01.1980.12). The Committee became part of the former Office for Handicapped Individuals in 1987 (Executive Order 01.01.1987.09) and received its present name in 1989. The Committee now is within the Office for Individuals with Disabilities.

The Committee works to create a public awareness of the problems that people with disabilities face in finding employment and of the laws that ensure equal opportunity. It cooperates with all groups, public and private, in promoting services for individuals with disabilities. The Committee also initiates and publicizes programs to stimulate hiring of persons with disabilities.

The Committee encourages meaningful employment for qualified mentally, physically and emotionally disabled individuals as defined by the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Committee also informs people with disabilities of opportunities available for habilitation and rehabilitation so that they may develop marketable job skills.

The Committee sponsors annual conferences, awards programs, and poster and journalism con-

tests to inform the public of employment and rehabilitation programs for Maryland's disabled citizens.

Appointed by the Governor, the Committee consists of thirty-five members who serve three-year terms. The Governor designates the chairperson. Local committees exist in many counties and in Baltimore City.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mary E. Brady, *Director*
(410) 333-4975
1-800-TECH-TAP

The Technology Assistance Program (TAP) provides information and technology services to people with disabilities. It is governed by the federal Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with the Disabilities Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-407). Created in 1990, the Program is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the U.S. Department of Education. Maryland was one of the first states to receive such a grant.

To enhance the quality of life for Marylanders with disabilities, the Program helps people to locate, evaluate, and purchase adaptive devices. The Program provides technology-related training and referral services in cooperation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In 1990, the Program helped to form the Clearinghouse for Rehabilitation and Technology Information within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The Program has established three model technology demonstration centers with a main site at the Maryland Rehabilitation Center in Baltimore and sites in Cumberland and Salisbury where technology resource specialists serve. Since May 1990, the Program has helped over 10,000 people with disabilities to obtain assistive devices. Awards covered home renovation to accommodate a wheelchair, wheelchairs, telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired, and computer hardware and software.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Diane K. Ebberts, *Chairperson*

The Advisory Committee, formerly the Management Committee, was appointed by the Governor in December 1989 to oversee the Technology Assistance Program. The majority of its members are consumers, with State and private agencies that provide services to the disabled also represented.

Defunct Agencies of OFFICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' COUNCIL FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED

Formerly under the Office for Individuals with Disabilities, the Council disbanded in 1991.