

the Long-Term Care Program, it evaluates and surveys nursing homes, adult day-care centers, and licensed and registered domiciliary-care homes.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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Functions of the Substance Abuse and Community Mental Health Program began in 1992 as Long-Term Care, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs. In 1995, the work of these units was reorganized into two units. The Substance Abuse and Community Mental Health Program evaluates all residential and nonresidential health-related services and programs for the mentally impaired and the alcohol and drug addicted. This program also manages the licensure program for private review agents doing business in Maryland. Private review agents are third parties (often employed by insurance companies) who in advance approve or disapprove medical procedures to be covered by insurance.

POLICY & HEALTH STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION

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The Policy and Health Statistics Administration originated in 1984 as the Office of Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation. In 1987, it was reorganized as the Policy Analysis Administration and, in 1988, as the Policy and Health Statistics Administration. In 1995, the Administration was made part of Business and Regulatory Services.

The Administration develops and implements priority projects. The Administration devises initiatives and conducts technical analyses needed to address departmental, gubernatorial or legislative concerns. It analyzes evaluations and statistics for policy decisions.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS PROGRAM

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The Division of Boards and Commissions was reorganized in 1986 as the Office of Boards and Commission Programs and, in 1993, as the Health Professionals Boards and Commissions Program. The Program is responsible for the examination, licensing, regulation, and surveillance of health professionals in Maryland.

Under the Program are the State Commission on Kidney Disease and sixteen licensing and regulatory boards:

- State Acupuncture Board
- State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, & Speech-Language Pathologists
- State Board of Chiropractic Examiners
- State Board of Dental Examiners
- State Board of Dietetic Practice
- State Board of Electrologists
- State Board of Morticians
- State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators
- State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice
- State Board of Examiners in Optometry
- State Board of Pharmacy
- State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
- State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners
- State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors
- State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
- State Board of Social Work Examiners

STATE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

Robert M. Duggan, *President*, 1997
Penny K. Heisler, *Administrator*

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The State Acupuncture Board was created in 1994 (Chapter 620, Acts of 1994). The Board regulates the practice of acupuncture in Maryland.

The Board's seven members are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor (Code Health Occupations Article, secs. 1A-101 through 1A-502).

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING AID DISPENSERS, & SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Louise Colodzin, Ph.D., *Chair*, 1997
Barbara A. Curtis, *Administrator*

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The State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech-Language Pathologists originated from three separate boards. The first was the Board of Examiners for Hearing Aid Dealers, formed in 1969 and placed within the Department of Licensing and Regulation in 1970 (Chapter 634, Acts of 1969; Chapter 402, Acts of 1970). The other two boards—the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, and the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathologists—both were formed in 1972 within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Chapter 547, Acts of 1972). In 1987, the speech pathologists' board was renamed the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists (Chapter 478, Acts of 1987). All three boards merged in 1992 to become the State Board of Exam-