

**CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD FOR
WESTERN MARYLAND CENTER**

Joyce C. Brown, *Chair*, 1997

The Board's seven members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor upon recommendation of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Vacancy, *Director*

201 West Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201—2399 (410) 767-6749

The Office of Children's Health had been known as the Office of Child Health Services since 1989 when it was made part of the Local and Family Health Administration. In 1993, the Office became the Office of Child Health. In 1994, the Office of Child Health and the Office of Children's Medical Services merged to form the Office of Child Health and Children's Medical Services. It was renamed the Office of Children's Health in 1995.

The Office administers State and federal funding to the department of health in each county and Baltimore City for basic preventive services to safeguard the health of children. These services include immunizations; screening for lead poisoning, vision, hearing and scoliosis; and counseling in basic nutrition. The Office also administers special grants, such as the grant to the University of Maryland System relating to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), or grants to Eastern Shore counties for preventive dental care for children. In addition, the Office offers training, consultation, and technical assistance to local health departments and the private sector.

The Office administers a joint federal, State and local program formerly called Crippled Children's Services, that has operated in Maryland since 1937 (Code Health—General Article, sec. 15-125). State funding for services to crippled children dates to at least 1922.

The Office helps families plan and obtain specialized medical and rehabilitative care for children whose chronic illnesses or disabling conditions interfere with normal growth and development. These conditions include cerebral palsy, orofacial anomalies, speech and language problems, spina bifida, heart disease and defects, hearing impairment, cystic fibrosis, chronic otitis media, chronic renal disease, and epilepsy. Many other diagnoses qualify a child to receive services if financial eligibility requirements also are met (Code of Maryland Regulations—COMAR 10.22.08.05B).

**PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY
HEARING-IMPAIRED INFANTS**

Janie B. Scott, *Director*

(410) 767-5603
toll free: 1-800-633-1316

The Program to Identify Hearing-Impaired Infants was established under the Developmental Disabilities Administration in 1985 (Chapter 402, Acts of 1985). In 1990, the Program was transferred to the Office of Children's Medical Services and, in 1992, to the Office of Child Health Services, now the Office of Children's Health within the Local and Family Health Administration. The Program provides early identification and follow-up of hearing-impaired infants and infants who are at risk of developing a hearing impairment.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY
HEARING-IMPAIRED INFANTS**

Vira J. Froehlinger, *Chair*, 1995

The Advisory Council for Program to Identify Hearing-Impaired Infants was created in 1985 (Chapter 402, Acts of 1985). The Council advises the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on implementing the Program and on educational programs for families, professionals, and the public. The Council also reviews informational materials distributed by the Department.

The Council consists of ten members appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (Code Health—General Article, secs. 13-601 through 13-605).

**CLEARINGHOUSE FOR REHABILITATION
& TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION**

Janie B. Scott, O.T.R./L., *Administrator*

(410) 767-5745
fax: (410) 333-7956
toll free: 1-800-638-8864
TTY: 1-800-852-2892

The Clearinghouse for Rehabilitation and Technology Information began in 1984 as the Rehabilitation Information Service under the Office of Chronic and Rehabilitation Facilities (Chapter 416, Acts of 1984). In 1990, when the Service received federal funds through the Technology Assistance Program of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities, it assumed its present name. In 1991, the Clearinghouse was placed under the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and, in 1995, under the Office of Children's Health.

The Clearinghouse provides information on rehabilitation services to persons who have suffered amputation, stroke, spinal cord injury, or head trauma. The Service also responds to the needs of other disabled individuals and helps providers locate needed services. Inquiries are accepted from anywhere in Maryland (Code Health—General Article, sec. 20-108).