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In addition to the duties set forth elsewhere in this article, the State Advisory Board shall:

(1) Consult with and advise the Secretary on:

(i) Each aspect of the juvenile justice program in this State; [and]

(ii) The educational programs and services of the Department; AND

(III) PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO DIVERT CHILDREN FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM;

(2) Recommend to the Secretary policies and programs to improve juvenile justice in this State;

(3) Participate in interpreting for the public the objectives of the Department; and

(4) Participate in planning the development and use of available resources to meet the needs of the Department.

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(b) The Department shall have a unit for research and development. The unit shall:

(1) Compile accurate statistics and reliable information on all aspects of the juvenile program of this State;

(2) Monitor current developments in the field of juvenile justice;

(3) Assess existing programs and activities, INCLUDING YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS;

(4) Help develop new or improved means, INCLUDING GREATER UTILIZATION OF YOUTH SERVICES BUREAUS UNDER § 2-122 OF THIS SUBTITLE, to prevent juvenile offenses and control and treat juvenile offenders;

(5) If necessary, initiate studies to help the Secretary in general planning and program development for the Department; ~~{and}~~

~~(6) IN COLLABORATION WITH AFFECTED ENTITIES, UNDERTAKE ONGOING QUANTITATIVE ANALYSES OF THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PREDELINQUENT DIVERSION SERVICES PROGRAMS, AND~~

(7) For these and related purposes, use research and information available from all sources.

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(a) In this section, "youth services bureau" means a community-based entity that is operated: