

The amendments relating to hospital and medical insurance for the aged specifically require that the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare enter into agreements with those States able and willing to do so, under which an appropriate State agency will be utilized to certify provider institutions within the State for participation in the program. By agreement, the functions of the State agencies may be broadened to include the provision of consultative services to institutions seeking certification, and assistance to institutions in establishing utilization review procedures. Provision is made for the reimbursement of State agencies for the cost of rendering these services. Accordingly, implementation of the health insurance amendments will involve continuous close coordination and cooperation with designated agencies of the State governments.

In administering the health insurance program, the SSA will work closely with State welfare agencies as well as with the Bureau of Family Services of the Welfare Administration (see above) in effecting supplementary medical insurance coverage for aged persons on welfare rolls and in coordinating title XVIII and title XIX activities.

Coordination also exists between various State agencies and SSA for the purpose of furnishing information to assist the agencies in administering their laws, as follows:

(i) State agencies administering unemployment compensation laws: Any information needed for purposes of administering or evaluating unemployment compensation laws (except medical information) is furnished;

(ii) State agencies administering programs receiving Federal grants-in-aid under titles I, IV, V, X, and XIV of the Social Security Act: Information is furnished about entitlement to and social security benefits paid, date of birth, whether a period of disability has been established, the beginning and ending date of the period and the date of onset of disability, to enable the agency to determine eligibility for assistance or the amount of payments or services due the claimant. Also, to a State agency administering a program for aid and services to needy families with children, information concerning the whereabouts of a deserting parent of a child eligible for benefits under such assistance programs; and

(iii) State agencies administering a program receiving Federal aid under the VR Act: For purposes of administration, information is furnished about entitlement to or social security benefits paid, date of birth, medical information, and information concerning establishment of disability.

(e) *With local governments or communities.*—Although SSA is not directly involved in coordinations with local governments or communities, it looks to the community for welfare services needed by beneficiaries since these services are not provided within the social insurance system. Too often the needed services are not available in the community or are too restricted to be generally effective. In furtherance of the objective of having services available in the community that are needed by children, the disabled, and the aging, the SSA participates with national and voluntary agencies in overall planning to promote the development and extension of such services.

Within DHEW and the Federal Government, this planning is done through intradepartmental committees, interdepartmental committees, and collaborative public and private demonstration projects.