

Formed by the Governor in 1982, the State Coordinating Council began as the State Coordinating Council for Residential Placement of Handicapped Children (Executive Order 01.01.1982.09). The Governor reestablished the Council within the Office for Handicapped Individuals in 1987 (Executive Order 01.01.1987.10). The Council was transferred to the Office for Children, Youth, and Families in 1990 (Chapter 419, Acts of 1990). In 1993, the Council received its present name (Chapter 556, Acts of 1993).

The Council has developed procedures for Local Coordinating Councils to assure that those children with disabilities in residential placement receive a complete plan of care. With the Local Coordinating Councils, the State Coordinating Council plans, coordinates, and monitors multiple-agency services for children with disabilities who may need or are in residential placement. It also maintains a multi-agency information system that assures agency accountability to children with disabilities and enables the State to plan for needed services.

The State Coordinating Council consists of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; the Secretary of Human Resources; the Secretary of Juvenile Services; the State Superintendent of Schools; and the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families; or their designees. The Director of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities serves ex officio as a nonvoting member (Code 1957, Art. 49D, secs. 13-20).

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES REFORM INITIATIVE

Donna Stark, Ph.D., *Director*
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The Children and Family Services Reform Project was established by the Governor in June 1988 (Executive Order 01.01.1988.09). Known as the Children and Family Services Reform Initiative, the Project seeks to create a model children and family services system.

Under oversight of the Governor's Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families, the Initiative coordinates interagency planning and budgeting for all State programs concerned with the needs of young children and adolescents who are abused, neglected, abandoned, emotionally disturbed, handicapped, or pregnant. Coordination also extends to programs for young runaways or substance abusers, as well as those who are dependent, homeless, habitually truant, ungovernable, or delinquent. Additionally, the Initiative coordinates programs for youth who are at-risk from these conditions and for their families.

The Initiative reviews State statutes and regulations on children and family services. It makes recommendations on the use of all available government and private resources for essential serv-

ices for children and families. In selected areas, the Initiative also devises and implements new local service delivery systems. It then assists in extending those systems throughout the State under the direction of the Subcabinet.

PROJECT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson: Nancy S. Grasmick, Ph.D., *Special Secretary for Children, Youth, & Families*
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Formed by the Governor in 1988, the Project Advisory Council advises the Governor's Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families and the Department of Human Resources concerning the Children and Family Services Reform Initiative.

PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

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Prevention and Early Intervention for Young Children began in 1991 within the Office for Children, Youth, and Families. Under this unit, a comprehensive statewide strategy has been devised for prevention and early intervention services for young children (from birth to age 5) and their families. The strategy involves five initiatives: the State Commission on Infant Mortality Prevention; the Infants and Toddlers Programs; the Head Start Collaboration Network; the Office of Child Care Coordination; and the Family Development Communities Project.

STATE COMMISSION ON INFANT MORTALITY PREVENTION

Samuel C. Schwab, *Chairperson, 1994*
Carol Ann Baglin, *Director*

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The State Commission on Infant Mortality Prevention was created in 1991 (Chapter 413, Acts of 1991). The Commission was overseen by the Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy from 1991 to December 1993, when it came under Prevention and Early Intervention for Young Children. The Commission works to reduce infant mortality in Maryland.

For maternal and infant health care, the Commission established a perinatal system by regions in the State. The Commission formulates policies and strategies to increase the availability of skilled health care providers for needy citizens and makes recommendations for a perinatal surveillance and data collection system.