

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

elsewhere in the nation are causing increasing serious problems, such as neglect, abuse, childhood illness, underdevelopment, school failure, juvenile crime, addiction to drugs, runaways, and teen pregnancy, which prevent the development of skills and self-reliance;

WHEREAS, Present children and family services programs in Maryland are administered separately by numerous State and local agencies with different service delivery systems, different funding sources, and different eligibility requirements and do not fully utilize other public or private resources;

WHEREAS, Improved coordination, greater accountability, and more effective service delivery can be achieved by reallocation of funds, replacement of inefficient programs and closer ties with local government and private agencies and resources;

WHEREAS, The Executive Department and General Assembly have recognized the need for more effective interagency planning and coordination of these services and the greater use of community resources to address the problems now being faced by Maryland's children and families;

WHEREAS, State agencies are already involved in several projects to improve and reform children and family services which emphasize the need to detect and prevent serious problems of children at an early stage, the primary role of the family in providing effective care of troubled and needy infants and youths, the necessity for close coordination of children and family services programs, and the maximum, most efficient use of all available resources; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that the success of these various initiative requires a formal structure for their close coordination, the development of common goals and policies, interagency planning on the State and local level, and involvement of a broad array of public and private agencies and local community organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

A. The Children and Family Services Reform Project is established within the Executive Department. Its purpose is to begin a focused pilot project designed to create a model children and family services systems which will:

(1) Strengthen families' capacities to care for their children at home;