

In accordance with the Infant Mortality Prevention Strategic Plan, the Commission advises the Governor on distribution of community incentive grants to prevent infant mortality. These grants come from funds provided in the State budget for this purpose.

The Commission's twenty members are appointed by the Governor. Four serve ex officio. One member is a senator nominated by the Senate President; one is a delegate nominated by the House Speaker; one represents the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid); and one represents the State Department of Education. The remaining members serve three-year terms (Code 1957, Art. 49D, secs. 30-36).

INFANTS & TODDLERS PROGRAM

Under the federal Education of the Handicapped Act (P.L. 99-457), Maryland receives federal funds to provide early intervention services statewide for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities (from birth through age 3) and their families. Services include health and medical services, family training, counseling, and specialized child care.

In 1988, the State Department of Education was designated by the Governor to administer the federal early intervention program in Maryland (Executive Order 01.01.1988.15). The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program initiated by the State Department of Education was transferred to the Office for Children, Youth, and Families in 1990 (Chapter 419, Acts of 1990).

MARYLAND STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Michael Bender, Ph.D., *Co-Chairperson*, 1996
Katharine Kahoe Cooper, *Co-Chairperson*, 1995
(410) 333-8100

In 1988, the Governor established the Maryland State Interagency Coordinating Council to advise the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program in accordance with amendments to the federal Education of the Handicapped Act (P.L. 99-457; Executive Order 01.01.1988.15). In 1990, the Council was authorized by statute (Chapter 419, Acts of 1990).

The Council helps develop and implement the early intervention program and assists with interagency agreements and the identification of resources. The Council also serves as an advisory board for the program. To ensure interagency coordination and delivery of early intervention services, the Governor's Subcabinet for Children, Youth, and Families monitors the program.

The Council's fifteen members are appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent.

HEAD START COLLABORATION NETWORK

(410) 333-8100

Created in 1993, the Head Start Collaboration Network helps coordinate the services of the Head Start Program with those of other community services to better serve families in Head Start programs. The Network links Head Start services with those of health care providers, education agencies, child care programs, employment projects, and community organizations.

OFFICE OF CHILD CARE COORDINATION

(410) 333-8100

The Office of Child Care Coordination was formed in 1993. The Office coordinates policy, planning, and development for child care programs among State government agencies and with local planners, child care coordinators and advocates, and users of child care. The Office promotes and markets public/private partnerships for technical assistance and support in child care for employees, employers, and families.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

(410) 333-8100

Funded through the Ford Foundation, the Family Development Communities Project started in 1993. The Project works to enable communities to enhance local resources and support systems for families with young children. Communities are encouraged to create a network of resources with which to begin educating young children before they enter school.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

Quentin R. Lawson, *Chairperson*, 1995
Ann Mulligan, *Executive Director*

One Market Center
300 W. Lexington St.
Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 333-0270

The Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy was established in 1986 (Chapter 121, Acts of 1986). The Council had been an independent agency located in the Department of Human Resources for budgetary and administrative purposes only. In 1990, the Council was transferred to the Office for Children, Youth, and Families (Chapter 419, Acts of 1990).

The Council works to reduce unplanned adolescent pregnancies in Maryland. To ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to social, educational, economic, health and legal problems of adolescent pregnancy and parenthood, the Council develops a statewide plan for reducing adolescent pregnancy and improving services to at-risk pregnant and parenting teenagers. The Council promotes interdepartmental, public and private coordination of policies and programs.