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(A) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF THE OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE GENERAL POLICY FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY SERVICES IN THE STATE.

(B) (1) THE POLICY SHALL BE TO PROMOTE A STABLE, SAFE, AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, THEREBY INCREASING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND FAMILY PRESERVATION.

(2) THIS REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF CARE THAT IS FAMILY AND CHILD ORIENTED AND EMPHASIZES PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MOST AT RISK.

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(a) The Advisory Committee is a part of the Office for Children [and], Youth, AND FAMILIES and exercises the powers and duties specified in this section.

(b) The Governor shall appoint an Advisory Committee which shall consist of:

(1) [The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Secretary of Human Resources, the Superintendent of Education or their designees;

(2)] One representative from each children's council, a total of 24; [and]

[(3)] (2) 12 members appointed FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC; AND

(3) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, HUMAN RESOURCES, AND JUVENILE SERVICES.

(c) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms of members serving on July 1, 1983.

(d) Members are appointed for a term of 3 years.

(e) The Governor annually shall designate 1 of the members to serve as chairman of the Advisory Committee.

(f) In the event of the resignation of a member or a vacancy in the membership of the Advisory Committee for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term of the member.

(g) The members of the Advisory Committee serve without compensation. However, they shall receive ordinary and reasonable expenses in accordance with the Standard Travel Regulations necessarily incurred while discharging their duties as members of the Advisory Committee.

(h) It is the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to: