

~~(18) A communications professional as recommended by a majority vote of the Task Force.~~

~~(13) The Executive Director of the Maryland Committee for Children or the Executive Director's designee;~~

~~(14) One representative of the early childhood special education community, appointed by the Governor; and~~

~~(15) One preschool coordinator from a local board of education, appointed by the Governor.~~

(c) The purposes and goals of the Task Force shall be to:

(1) Propose an overall plan to increase access to early childhood education opportunities for families, which may include incentives, resource development, the need for and availability of infrastructure, and possible funding sources through:

(i) The identification of criteria, procedures, and methods for issuing subsidies to parents and legal guardians of children to facilitate their attendance at preschools and early learning programs; and

(ii) The development of processes designed to:

1. Promote public-private partnerships;

2. Create new and expand existing early childhood learning programs; and

3. Provide needs assessment and planning, including a coordinated data system;

(2) Develop plans and identify resources needed to improve the quality and services of early childhood learning programs by:

(i) Determining performance indicators of quality programs;

(ii) Identifying and recommending quality assessment instruments for the purpose of addressing early learning needs in children;

(iii) Identifying strategies to expand the number of programs meeting national or State standards of quality through program accreditation;

(iv) Proposing incentives and rewards programs designed to increase overall program quality;

(v) Using any guidelines developed by the Maryland State Department of Education for preschool and early childhood education as guidelines for program improvement; and

(vi) Identifying and promoting State and local coordination;