

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) identify the costs of autoimmune disease that have been incurred by the State and study potential ways to reduce the costs;

(2) identify benefits to the citizens of the State of research and medical work conducted ~~at the National Institutes of Health, the University of Maryland Medical Center, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System in Maryland~~ on autoimmune disease and study ways to improve the benefits to the public and the professional health community;

(3) identify the services available in the State for people with autoimmune disease and the gap in services, including duplication and fragmentation;

(4) study the level of coordination or lack of coordination among State agencies, State health services, and private health services;

(5) identify the need for training on autoimmune disease for State and local health departments and explore collaboration with State universities and the National Institutes of Health to implement such training;

(6) identify ways for the local health departments to integrate the most advanced autoimmune disease diagnostic techniques and treatments into their health services;

(7) identify the need for a public awareness campaign on autoimmune disease in the State to encourage early diagnosis and treatment to lower the cost of autoimmune disease, and explore ways that such a campaign could be funded and implemented;

(8) identify ways to link autoimmune patients with health services in the State;

(9) identify collaborations with the business community and employers on the long-term and chronic effects of autoimmune disease and ways to assist employees affected by autoimmune disease;

(10) identify the special needs of women with autoimmune disease and ways to assist them;

(11) identify private and public funding resources to support future planning and implementation of the Task Force recommendations;

(12) identify ways for the State to work collaboratively with existing private resources in the State, such as autoimmune disease patient groups, professional health associations, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, and the medical research and biotechnology research communities; and

(13) study other topics relating to autoimmune disease in the State.