

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

(2) Enhance the development, well-being and care of special needs children through comprehensive prevention and early intervention services;

(3) Provide a continuum of effective care and treatment for needy or troubled children at home, or in out-of-home placements, where that is necessary;

(4) Achieve prompt adoptions, or other supportive long-term placements for children who cannot be returned to their families; and

(5) Rely primarily upon community based services which impose the least restrictions that are consistent with their effectiveness and the dignity and rights of the child and family.

B. The Subcabinet for Children and Youth consisting of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Human Resources, Juvenile Services Agency, Office for Children and Youth, and Office for Handicapped Individuals shall supervise the project and establish governing interagency coordination. The Director of the Governor's Office for Children and Youth shall chair the project and the Department of Human Resources shall be the lead agency for the project.

C. A Projected Advisory Council shall be established to advise the Subcabinet for Children and Youth and the Department of Human Resources on the progress of the project and how it can best meet its goals. The Advisory Council shall consist of no more than twenty members appointed by the Governor, including representatives of State and local public and private agencies which provide children and family services, the General Assembly, the Judiciary, local governments, advocates for children, and interested private citizens. The Secretary of Human Resources shall be chair of the Council.

D. The pilot project shall be funded by State, federal, local and private funds in accordance with the budget and applicable State or federal laws and regulations.

E. With the assistance of the Subcabinet for Children and Youth, the pilot project shall:

(1) Review State statutes and regulations concerning children and family services and recommend changes believed needed to achieve the goals of the project;

(2) Develop and implement new local service delivery systems in selected areas and then develop plans for extending them promptly throughout the State with Governor's approval;