

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 49D – Office for Children, Youth, and Families

1.

(a) The Office for Children, Youth, and Families is created as part of the Executive Department.

(b) The head of the Office is the Special Secretary for Children, Youth, and Families. The Special Secretary is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor and is directly responsible to him. The Special Secretary shall receive the salary provided in the State budget.

(c) The Office shall have a Director and the assistants, fiscal analysts, consultants, and employees provided in the State budget. The Special Secretary may establish areas of responsibility within the Office and may designate staff as necessary to fulfill the duties assigned to the Special Secretary.

(d) The following units are in the Office:

- (1) Advisory Committee for Children, Youth, and Families;
- (2) Children's councils;
- (3) Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy;
- (4) State Coordinating Council for Residential Placement of Handicapped Children; AND
- (5) [Infants and Toddlers Interagency Coordinating Council; and
- (6) Other multiple agency initiatives for children, youth, and families that are not reserved by law to another agency.

Article – Education

2-107. 8-416.

(a) The [Office for Children, Youth, and Families] DEPARTMENT shall be the lead agency for supervising and monitoring a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, and their families.

(b) The interagency system shall include the early intervention services provided or supervised by the State Departments of [Education,] Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources, and Juvenile Justice, AND THE OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

(c) The interagency system of early intervention services shall be administered in accord with the applicable requirements of Federal Public Law 99-457 and other applicable federal and State laws.