

34.

(A) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY IN THE STATE.

(B) IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES AND OTHER CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH A PERINATAL SYSTEM FOR MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH CARE BY REGIONS IN THE STATE ~~BY~~ WHICH INCLUDES:

(I) DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFANT MORTALITY PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN;

(II) MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO PREVENT INFANT MORTALITY;

(III) RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES;

(IV) DESIGNING MODEL COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS;
AND

(V) ADVISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF THE STATUS OF INFANT MORTALITY IN THEIR REGION; ~~AND~~

(2) DEVELOP POLICIES AND STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED PROVIDERS FOR NEEDY CITIZENS OF MARYLAND BY AND RECOMMEND TO APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES AND OTHER CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS INITIATIVES FOR:

(I) EXPANDING NURSE MIDWIFERY AND NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAMS;

(II) INVESTIGATING, FROM THE PHYSICIAN AND PATIENT PERSPECTIVE, THE REASONS FOR NONPARTICIPATION BY PHYSICIANS IN THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND

(III) ASSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY PHYSICIAN AND ~~MID-LEVEL~~ OTHER HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PATIENTS AND PATIENT POPULATIONS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES;

(3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PERINATAL SURVEILLANCE AND DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM ~~TO~~ THAT WILL:

(I) ALLOW THE ONGOING MATCHING OF BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES IN A TIMELY FASHION; AND