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TO: Commissioner Kevin Concannon, Department of Human Services
The Honorable Joan M. Pendexter, Senate Chair
The Honorable Michael J. Fitzpatrick, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources

FROM: Viola Morris, ^{mm}Co-Chair
Jeannie Hamrin, ^{JH}Co-Chair
Child Care Advisory Council

DATE: March 21, 1996

We are pleased to transmit to you the Annual Report of the Child Care Advisory Council.

For clarity, we have noted the duties of the council as set forth in Public Law 158 and a brief summary of the council's activities related to each. We have also included more detailed information in response to the requirement of the child care legislation to submit recommendations regarding a uniform regulatory system for family child care homes. An Executive Summary of the report and recommendations of the Single Regulatory Task Group is included.

We hope that the council's report is useful to you and committee members in your efforts to formulate future child care legislation to address the needs of Maine's children and families.

Please call if we can be of further assistance.

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Enclosures
dp/Peter/Letters

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AUGUSTA, MAINE

THE MAINE CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

AND

THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Viola Morris
Jeannie Hamrin
Co-Chairs of the Child Care Advisory Council

MARCH 21, 1996

**AN ACT TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE
SERVICES IN THE STATE**

Chapter 1051-A
Child Care Services

Subsection 3739, Child Care Advisory Council

5. Duties. The Council shall:

A. Advise the Department and the Legislature regarding the coordination of child care services in the State.

The Child Care Advisory Council held eight meetings from January 1995 to January 1996. A presentation was made to the Human Resources Committee which included statistical and historical information regarding the delivery of child care services in the state. The final report and recommendations from the Task Group on Resource Development Centers was presented. And, an interim report from the Task Group on Single Regulatory System for Family Day Care was also included by the Task Group.

The Council spent time on reviewing the goals and objectives which it had set in the prior year with emphasis on collaboration and maximization of resources for subsidizing child care services. (See attached)

B. Advise the Department regarding the preparation of any application, amendment, waiver request, plan or other document submitted by the Department to the Federal government regarding child care funding and recommend changes to the submission when appropriate.

The Funding and Contracting Subcommittee was charged with the functions listed above. They met six times during the year with the expressed goal of developing expertise on the funding, requirements and gaps in the system. A matrix of all available funding is being developed and a process is under way to review the equitable distribution of funds, statewide, with Department of Human Services administrators.

Recommendations regarding the RFP process for all state contracts were made to the full Council. These recommendations were presented to the Governor and were on the agenda when Commissioner Concannon met with the Council in September. Recommendations included: The process should include the Child Care Advisory Council which represents broad based expertise in the delivery of child care services. There must be an orderly transition of services and funds, to avoid disruptions that will negatively impact on children and families, the workforce and thereby Maine employers. We must recognize that Maine has a very stable child care delivery system which consists of well established community based programs that have been able to develop additional funding sources, (such as United Way and municipal dollars), and have a record of collaboration with the private sector. These collaborations have resulted in more funding and resources for child care, and represent significant private sector capital.

In view of the uncertainties of federal funding during the year, recommendations on the Child Care Development Block Grant, and federal Welfare Reform, were mainly discussed in terms of the impact of a funding cut during the contract year and the strategy for dealing with such. This is especially critical as most programs are well into their fiscal year and with no assurance that funding is firm.

C. Establishment of a subcommittee that includes licensing officials, public health and safety representatives, early childhood educators and others considered necessary by the council to review the current system of licensing and registration and recommend a uniform regulatory system for family day-care homes. In its first annual report, the council shall submit its recommendations, along with implementing legislation, if needed, to the joint standing committee of the legislature having jurisdiction over human resource matters.

The Single Regulatory Task Group on Family Day Care met fourteen times during the year and did follow the recommendations from the 1995 interim report to involve providers and parents in the process. The Final Report is included in this package.

SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ATTACHED.

The over-riding theme of the past year has been the importance of the availability of safe, affordable, accessible child care to welfare reform and economic development. This is true with regard to the State Welfare Reform Plan as well as whatever may be passed federally. Community based solutions, are possible only through collaboration and building public-private partnerships. Currently, Maine has a stable child care delivery system that allows for parental choice and has a single point of entry system with the Resource Development Centers. We strongly recommend that these systems be fully integrated and utilized since they are well established and offer the best and most cost-effective access for families, and employers.

L.D. 762 is very specific in terms of maintaining the Office of Child Care Coordination and the availability of stable, high quality child care with consumer education and orientation. Affordability, accessibility, diversity and support for the infrastructure are the key elements of this bill. As we move to comply with job training requirements in promoting welfare reform, we must be careful to maintain the level of service currently provided to working families in the system. We must also find a way to maintain the standards and requirements set in this legislation while attempting to address the very large unmet need for child care. This need is evidenced by the long waiting lists maintained by every child care center and Resource Development Center in the state.

Child Care Advisory Council

<u>Member/Address</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Senator Donald Esty 22 Union Street Westbrook, ME 04092	854-2790	Senate
Senator Donald Esty 3 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0003	287-1540 (while in session)	
Representative Wendy Ault RR #1, Box 24 Wayne, ME 04284	685-9649	House of Representatives
Representative Wendy Ault 2 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0002	287-1400 (while in session)	
Elizabeth Ayotte So. Kennebec Child Development Corporation 9 Higgins Street Augusta, ME 04330	626-3410 1-800-525-2229	Head Start Directors Association
Ron Bridges Infant Development Center 629 Westbrook Street S. Portland, ME 04106	822-0126	Bur. of Children Special Needs DMH & MR
Paul Bright Dept. of Human Services Child Care Licensing 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	287-5060	Bur. of Child & Family Services DHS
Nelson Collins Dept. of Public Safety Fire Marshal's Office 52 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0052	287-3473	State Fire Marshal's Office

Member/Address	Telephone #	Representing
Linda Gay 32 Woodridge Drive Manchester, ME 04351	287-1567	Non-Subsidized Parent/Consumer
Jeannie Hamrin RRD #1, Box 366 Boothbay, ME 04537	633-7369	Maine Children's Alliance (ex-officio) CCAC Committee Co-Chair
Sue Harlor Div. of Purchased & Support Services/Dept. Human Services 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	287-5060	Bur. of Child & Family Services DHS
Janice Isaly Office of Substance Abuse Prevention & Education Div. 57 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0057	624-6525	Office of Substance Abuse
Nancy Isaacs Penquis Child Care Resource Development Ctr. 120 Cleveland Street Bangor, ME 04401	941-2840	Maine Association of Child Care Resources (MACCRRA)
Dianne E. Stetson State Office of Child Care & Head Start Dept. of Human Services/BCFS 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	287-5060	State Office of Child Care & Head Start DHS
Viola Morris The Children's Center P.O. Box 512 Sanford, ME 04073	324-6025	Maine Child Care Directors Assoc. CCAC Committee Co-Chair

<u>Member/Address</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Kathy Stewart 59 Burnham Road Gorham, ME 04038	839-6490	Maine Family Child Care Assoc.
Karen Cox School-Age Child Care Coalition c/o Augusta Recreation Dept. 16 Cony Street Augusta, ME 04330	626-2350	School Age Child Care
Barbara Van Burgel Dept. of Human Services Bur. of Family Independence 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	287-2826	Bur. of Family Independence DHS

Staff:

Dianne E. Stetson Office of Child Care & Head Start Dept. of Human Services/BCFS 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011	287-5060
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Vacancies

House (D)
Subsidized Parent/Consumer
Maine's Women's Lobby
Div. of Vocational Education/Dept. of Education
The Child Development Services Preschool Handicapped Sites
Native American Representative
Chamber of Commerce
Private Child Care Provider
Dept. of Economic & Community Development

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL GOALS/TIMELINES

GOAL #1. Advise the Department of Human Services regarding enhanced coordination of child care services so that the most effective use of state and federal funding may be achieved.

- Planning time with the commissioner and staff to do some up front work regarding their vision, plan and analysis of impact of performance-based contracting and all contracts going out to bid with emphasis on:
 - input from provider community
 - interface with welfare and reform and ASPIRE
 - distribution of funds
 - stability of services to current and future clients
 - quality vs. cheapest child care
 - maintaining leveraged funds--both actual dollars and in-kind
 - minimize disruption to clients, families and employers

- Look to change the system so location of contract dollars are not in separate service divisions. (This continues to encourage protectiveness about resources and re-labeling children as eligible or ineligible as well as dumping kids from services.)

- Map out the complexity of changing systems both in fiscal and human terms.

- Identify 3-4 major improvements that the reorganization will accomplish and put them into law with annual reports on progress.

GOAL #2. Facilitate community input on child care issues through communication among state government, the legislature, service providers and the public.

- Forums this Fall on Single Regulation System by RDCs regarding mandated report to the legislature.

GOAL #3. Mission Statement

- Review and update the Council's Mission Statement
(Completed)
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GOAL #4. Address the changing structure and needs of families and communities and explore ways in which child care may be better integrated into a system of comprehensive services for children and families.

- Map out the contributions of resources (staff, dollars, materials, facilities) by department, local communities, state and federal government. (DHS cannot afford to do it all, must leverage state resources.)
 - Involve the Department of Education and a superintendent/principal on council to collaborate at state and local levels to facilitate the delivery of school-age child care, summer feeding programs with emphasis on utilization of space, transportation, etc.
 - Implement inter-agency agreements similar to **20 U.S.C. para. 1412 (6); 34 C.F.R. para. 300.600** which govern the programming for children receiving special education.
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GOAL #5. Raise public awareness of the critical, escalating need for high quality child care.

- Speakers bureaus, workshops, public displays, radio/TV spots. Identification of community leaders
- Validate successful community initiatives

**The Report and Recommendations
of the
Single Regulation System for
Family Child Care
Task Group
of the
Maine Child Care Advisory Council**

February 1996

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislative Charge

Chapter 158, Public Law 1993 mandates that the Child Care Advisory Council collect and analyze information about the feasibility of a single regulation system for family child care and make recommendations to the Legislature by 1994. This was amended in 1994 to report to the legislature by January 1995 as the committee was first appointed in February 1994. The committee reported to the Legislature in January 1995 that they would make their final report in 1996.

Report

The Single Tier committee, mandated by the legislature, to work on devising uniform regulations has completed its final draft of the rules for a single licensing system for family child care homes.

The committee met 14 times during 1994, eleven times during 1995, and two times in 1996. The first year was a year for gathering information from licensed providers and registered home babysitters. A total of 349 providers and 101 parents gave input. The results were that 96% of parents and providers wanted uniform health and safety regulations and 61% supported a single regulatory system. The second year, the committee worked on drafting a set of regulations that is fair, uncomplicated and timely based on what the vast majority of providers and parents want for their children and what research tells us is necessary for children's health and safety.

The Office of Child Care Coordination [OCCC] mailed each licensed family child care provider and each registered home babysitter a copy of the draft regulations in October 1995. Resource Development Centers and other groups held meetings during October/November to get comments. At least one member from the Single Tier Committee and from the OCCC attended each meeting. If providers were unable to attend, they were asked to send comments to the Task Force.

The committee then met to discuss the comments, gather more information if necessary and write a final draft. Appended to this report is a copy of the proposed rules recommended for action by the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gay and Jeannie Hamrin, Co-chairs of the Single Tier Task Force