

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 6FY 79/80
DATE October 2, 1979

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON FOSTER CARE FOR CHILDREN

WHEREAS, there are 1,800 Maine children living in foster care for an average of seven years in an average of seven homes; and

WHEREAS, the State has failed or been unable to provide these children with permanent homes, either by returning them to their natural parents, by finding adoptive parents, or by making formal long term foster care agreements with stable foster families; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Maine deserves to live as part of a stable, permanent family:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, establish the Governor's Task Force on Foster Care for Children to examine Maine's system of foster care services and to make recommendations for improving this system.

MEMBERSHIP

There shall be twenty-five voting members on the full Task Force. Eighteen of these members shall be state legislators, judges, private sector providers and other members of the public appointed by the Governor. Seven of these members shall be state employees invited to participate by the Commissioner of Human Services.

The Governor may invite other interested Maine citizens to serve as non-voting members on the subcommittees of the full Task Force.

The Commissioner may invite other appropriate state and federal officials to participate on the Task Force or any of its subcommittees as non-voting members.

RESPONSIBILITIES

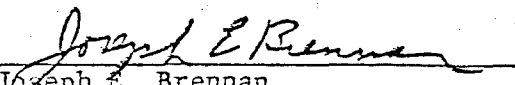
The responsibilities of the Task Force shall be:

1. to conduct a comprehensive review of the system of foster care services in Maine, using standards developed by the American Public Welfare Association and other professional organizations knowledgeable about foster care;
2. to carry out a survey of foster homes and the children currently residing in them in order to determine whether the children can be returned to their natural parents, be made available for adoption, or should remain in a long term foster family setting;

3. to focus special attention on the needs of older, "acting out" adolescents in all types of substitute care settings;
4. to develop a plan for increasing the number of adoptions in the State;
5. to make recommendations to the Governor for improving foster care services, including a plan for administration action and a plan for action by the 110th Maine State Legislature;
6. to take into account information gathered during public hearings in the development of the recommendations; and
7. to build public awareness of the problems and issues involved in the area of foster care services.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Department of Human Services shall provide clerical and staff support services for the Task Force, making use of any federal funds which become available for this purpose.
2. The Department of Human Services shall reimburse members of the Task Force for actual and reasonable mileage, lodging and meal expenses directly related to the activities of the Task Force.
3. The Final Report and recommendations shall be submitted by the Task Force on or before Labor Day, 1980.
4. This Executive Order shall terminate with the submission of the Final Report and recommendations.


Joseph E. Brennan
Governor