

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 9 FY 89/90
DATE May 11, 1990

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE SERVICES
FOR MAINE'S CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, there are over 300,000 children and youth under the age of 17 in Maine, and these children and youth, and their families, can benefit from a wide range of programs and services provided by both the public and private sectors;

WHEREAS, the needs of this population are very complex and include those of seriously troubled or at-risk as well as healthy children and youth, dysfunctional as well as intact and healthy families, and all infants and children in their early developmental years;

WHEREAS, the services appropriate to the diverse segments of this population are wide ranging and include health education, prenatal care, preventive health care, family planning, counseling, residential treatment, home-based care, child protective and substitute care, affordable housing, job retraining and upgrading of skills, supported employment, transportation, income assistance, summer youth employment, educational loans, and other services which treat problems or which contribute to healthy development and strong family structures;

WHEREAS, programs for this population require mobilization of vast resources from the fields of public health, maternal and child health, environmental health, mental health, medicine, social services, developmental disabilities, rehabilitation, substance abuse, education, labor, job training and placement, public assistance, law, corrections, housing, and many other fields affecting Maine family life;

WHEREAS, in the past five years, children and youth-serving professionals, advocates, consumers, and policy makers have studied only selected segments of this population while serving on a variety of task forces and commissions at the State level, resulting in recommendations tailored to each target group studied;

WHEREAS, these task forces and commissions have included recommendations for analysis of how services are organized to identify the most effective delivery systems for Maine to better serve different segments of this population; and,

WHEREAS, there is now a need to bring together these same groups in order to broaden the focus of State-level analysis to include all children, youth, and families in Maine, both those who are healthy as well as those who are troubled, to analyze the content and organization of services to different segments of this population, and to make appropriate recommendations including the most effective delivery systems to better serve some or all segments of this population;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Governor's Task Force To Improve Services For Maine's Children, Youth, and Families.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Task force is to make recommendations aimed at improving services to all children, youth, and families, including the identification from a range of options of the most effective delivery system for this population.

Membership:

The membership shall number no more than 35, and shall include a broadly based group of providers, consumers, and advocates from the public and private sector reflecting the needs and interests of children, youth, and families, and Commissioners or their designees from Departments offering programs to this population. The membership shall represent all aspects of the service delivery system including direct services and management. Members will be representative of education, health care, medicine, mental health, early childhood and adolescent development, developmental disabilities, labor, business, law, corrections, housing, social services, income assistance, and other areas affecting Maine family life.

Functions and Duties:

1. The Task Force shall carry out the following tasks:
 - * Analyze existing services by: type of program on the continuum of prevention-treatment; target population characteristics such as age, status, need, problem; allocation of resources, including public and private funds.
 - * Analyze the organization of services delivered through public and private programs.
 - * Identify gaps in programs and barriers to services including: array of services available in Maine; resource needs; accessibility issues such as income, law, policy, and geography.
 - * Make recommendations for improving services including reordering of priorities, resource allocation, and reorganization of services such as the creation of a separate state agency.
2. In order to carry out the above activities, the Task force shall:

- * review reports and conclusions of commissions and task forces focused on segments of the children, youth, and family population;
 - * invite input from advocacy groups, provider coalitions, organizations, agencies, boards and commissions, councils, and other entities which represent the interests of different segments of this population;
 - * participate in presentations conducted by providers; and,
 - * review the experience of other states.
3. Such standing and ad hoc committees as are necessary to the performance of this Executive Order may be formed by the Task Force, and may include persons who are not members of the Task Force.
 4. The Task force shall issue a status report by January 18, 1991, and shall make a final report with recommendations to the Governor by June 30, 1991.

Administration:

The Commissioners of the Interdepartmental Council (IDC) will ensure staff support to the Task Force in order to carry out the purpose of this Executive Order.

Terms of Membership:

The Governor shall appoint the members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Task Force shall dissolve upon completion of the final recommendations.

Officers:

The Governor shall appoint a Chair to serve for the term described above. The Chair shall designate sub-committee chairs as necessary.


Meetings:

The Task force shall meet at the call of the Chair. At least seven days' notice shall be given to members prior to each meeting.

Compensation:

All legally allowed expenditures incurred by members, while in the performance of their Task Force duties, shall be borne by their parent organizations. Expenses of members representing organizations that do not reimburse such expenses, or who otherwise do not have a source of reimbursement, shall be borne by the Departments represented on the IDC.

The effective date of this Order is May 11, 1990.



John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor