

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER SIX

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: FAMILY SERVICES CABINET COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Delaware's families are the fundamental building blocks of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the family structure in America has changed dramatically. Not only are 27% of our families headed by a single-parent, in 70% of our two-parent households, both parents work; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of children are growing up in poverty, in neighborhoods torn by violence and drugs, and without adequate child care, housing and health care; and

WHEREAS, many parents and concerned individuals lack the necessary skills and support to provide for the needs of children; and

WHEREAS, such children often come to school unprepared to handle the challenges of education and therefore cannot take advantage of the opportunities a quality education provides; and

WHEREAS, there are many children with special needs and efforts to enhance the development of these children have begun; and

WHEREAS, increased longevity among the elderly impacts families both emotionally and financially; and

WHEREAS, these economic, social and demographic changes have created unprecedented strains on families, leading to higher levels of domestic violence, substance abuse, and other phenomena which make it very difficult for families to carry out their proper responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Delaware has a proud tradition of community programs, both private and public, which help families in a variety of important ways; and

WHEREAS, the network of existing services is fragmented, difficult to comprehend by families, often does not provide services at times and locations convenient to working parents, and does not provide the full range of services necessary to address the needs of Delaware families; and

WHEREAS, many noteworthy efforts are underway to better address the needs of Delaware families in the 1990s, including those of the Business/Public Education Council, the Delaware Health Care Commission, and the Readiness for Success Commission, but a mechanism to bring greater coherence and coordination to these and other admirable efforts is sorely needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS R. CARPER, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order that:

1. The Family Services Cabinet Council is hereby established to develop a statewide family strategy to assure that public and private initiatives are coordinated and focused to provide the support and assistance required for the success of families in today's society.

2. The mission of the Council shall be to design and implement new service alternatives for school and community-based family-centered services, and otherwise

act as a catalyst for public-private partnerships to reduce service fragmentation and make it easier for families to get supportive services.

3. The Council, in conjunction with the Commission on Government Reorganization and Effectiveness, shall also make recommendations regarding the appropriate responsibilities of all interagency and departmental boards, commissions, committees and other state governmental entities involved in the delivery or coordination of services to families, with the goal of maximizing their effectiveness by eliminating overlap and clarifying their respective missions.

4. The Council shall review and, where appropriate, propose modifications of existing public programs and other initiatives to target present and proposed resources, including general funds, federal funds, and other sources, so as to provide the most effective assistance to families.

5. The Council shall work with its constituent agencies to coordinate their respective budget priorities and requests to best advance the statewide family strategy.

6. The Council shall coordinate the State's efforts to secure federal grants related to the support of families before such grant proposals are submitted for approval by the Delaware State Clearinghouse and shall advise the Clearinghouse and the agencies involved on issues related to coordination and consistency with the statewide family strategy.

7. The Council shall be composed of the Governor, the Secretary of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, the Secretary of Health and Social Services, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Public Safety, the Director of the State Housing Authority, and such others as the Governor shall appoint.

8. The Governor shall be the Chairperson of the Council, and a Vice Chairperson shall be selected by the Governor on a rotating basis from among the other members of the Council.

9. The Council shall form such committees, including membership beyond its members, as necessary to do its work. All members will make resources available from their respective organizations as needed to achieve the goals of the Council.



APPROVED this 17th day of May, 1993.

Thomas R. Carpe
Governor

ATTEST:

William J. Zuelken
Secretary of State