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Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County
~~City~~ of ERIE
~~Town~~
~~Village~~

Local Law No. 7 of the year 19 90

A local law in relation to the establishment of an Erie County Coordinating Council on
(Insert Title) Children and Families.

Be it enacted by the LEGISLATURE of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

County
~~City~~ of ERIE
~~Town~~
~~Village~~ as follows:

ARTICLE 16F

ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES

- Section 1. Legislative Declaration of Policy.
- Section 2. Establishment, powers and duties.
- Section 3. Membership, meetings.
- Section 4. The County Executive.
- Section 5. Staff
- Section 6. Effective date.

Section 1. Legislative Declaration of Policy.

It is hereby declared to be the public policy of Erie County, New York, to take all proper measures to preserve and strengthen the family unit and to aid in the establishment of a nurturing environment to encourage the proper development of children.

To further this policy the Erie County government provides

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

evaluation, treatment and preventative services to the children and families of Erie County.

The Erie County Legislature finds that this policy and these services can be more effectively administered and efficiently delivered by systematic coordination among the local government, public-voluntary system of social, educational, health, mental health and other supportive and rehabilitative services to children and families.

The services system can be strengthened by:

1. Fostering cooperation among local government and both public and voluntary agencies to provide better coordination supervision of services to children and families.

2. Eliminating duplication of services where possible and maximizing service provisions through judicious use of tax dollars, grants and other funding mechanisms as may become available.

3. Stressing more meaningful accountability by providers, in all sectors, regarding the quality and quantity of services provided to children and families.

4. Improving methods of ascertaining community needs and setting program goals as they relate to services for children and families.

Section 2. Establishment, powers and duties.

There is hereby created, the Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families, hereafter called Council. The council shall:

1. Develop a methodology to evaluate, monitor and ascertain the effectiveness of current programs in children's services.

2. Identify problems and deficiencies in existing services and recommend corrective action.

3. Improve coordination of program and fiscal resources within the children's services system.

4. Act as a liaison between county governmental units, public voluntary programs and the state and federal government, fostering better communication between all involved.

5. Review and resolve administrative and where appropriate, regulatory differences between agencies.

6. Develop long-range plans to improve services to children and families. This should be accomplished through a five year comprehensive service plan similar to those utilized by county departments.

7. Act as a forum for community discussion of issues pertaining to services for children and families.

8. Carry out any and all activities deemed necessary to accomplish the goals of the council as stated herein.

Section 3. Membership; meeting.

The council shall consist of the following members: the Erie County Commissioners of Youth, Social Services, Health and Mental Health, the Director of the Office for the Disabled and the Chief Clerk from Erie County Family Court, three (3) consumer/client representatives, five (5) representatives from local charitable and/or community-based organizations concerned with children and families,

Director of the Office of Probation, one (1) representative from a suburban school district and two (2) representatives from the Youth Planning Council of Buffalo.

The legislature shall appoint the eight (8) community representatives as follows: five (5) to be named by the majority and three (3) to be named by the minority. Four (4) of these members shall serve two (2) year terms and four (4) shall serve three (3) year terms. These members can only be reappointed once.

The county executive shall appoint the one (1) representative from a suburban school district and the two (2) representatives from the Youth Planning Council of Buffalo.

The chair shall be appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the legislature, and shall not be one of the eighteen (18) members previously stated.

The council shall have the authority to appoint Ad Hoc Council Members to advise them, as they may deem necessary.

The council shall have at least four (4) meetings each year with at least one (1) meeting to be in each quarter of the year. The council shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings; shall keep accurate records of its meetings and activities, and shall file an Annual Report with the county legislature and the county executive.

The council shall convene for its first meeting in the quarter of the year in which they are appointed. The council shall present its first report to the legislature before adoption of the annual budget in the year they are appointed, and every year thereafter on June 1st.

The annual report shall include the methodology for acquiring accurate statistics, which the council will use to evaluate and plan for services. Also, they should report any short-term budget recommendations for the 1991 budget.

The council shall then make yearly budget recommendations and five-year service plans.

Section 4. The County Executive.

The county executive shall require any county department, division, board, council, committee, authority or agency, or other unit or any agency or organization receiving county funding, to provide such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the commission to properly effectuate its powers and duties under this article.

Section 5. Staff.

The council shall be provided with a coordinator under the auspices of the executive branch of county government. The coordinator shall be responsible for the work of the council; and shall serve as research assistant; coordinate and implement the use of the monitoring mechanism, manage the correspondence of the council, provide a schedule of meeting dates and distribute an informational calendar. The coordinator shall also function as a liaison between the state and federal governments, community agencies and children's advocacy groups. The coordinator shall make such reports to the council at such times and in such manner as are deemed necessary by the council.

The council and its coordinator shall have access to secretarial staff as needed to complete its task.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately.