

RECEIVED  
ERIE COUNTY  
LEGISLATURE

COUNTY OF ERIE

LOCAL LAW NO. 4-1988

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LOCAL LAW INTRO. No. 3 (Print #2)

1988

A LOCAL LAW amending Local Law No. 1 - 1959, as amended, constituting the Erie County Charter, by amending Article XVI to add a new Article 16F, Sections 1-6 in relation to the establishment of an Erie County Community Coordinating Council on Children and Families.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, AS  
FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 16F

ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

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DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ERIE COUNTY

The service 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] and five representatives from local charitable and/or community-based organizations concerned with children and families, not to exceed ten [fourteen (14)] members.

The Legislature shall appoint the five [eight (8)] community representatives as follows:

Three [five] to be named by the Majority.  
Two [three] to be named by the Minority.

[Four of these members shall serve two (2) year terms and four shall serve three (3) year terms. These members can only be reappointed once].

The Chair shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Legislature, and shall not be one of the ten (10) [fourteen (14)] members previously stated.

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

b. 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 1988 budget.

The Council shall then make yearly budget recommendations and five-year service plans, with plan 1 due in June 1989.

#### 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.

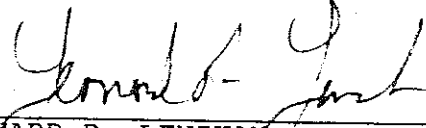
The Council shall be provided with a coordinator, under the auspices of the County Executive to serve the Council in capacities which include managing the correspondence of the Council; providing a schedule of meetings dates; distributing a calendar of information on programs and events members may be interested in attending. The Coordinator shall also serve as research assistant, and coordinate and implement the use of the monitoring mechanism, so that the Council shall have service and program data to use in its planning efforts. [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 childrens 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 also have access to secretarial staff as needed to complete its tasks.

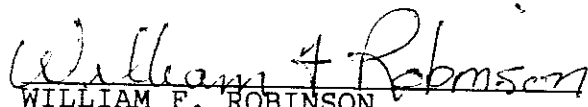
Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately.

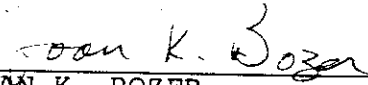
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