

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2009

DRAFT
SPECIAL PROVISION



2009-DHHS-H73

Department of Health and Human Services
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Requested by: Representative

1 *TASK FORCE ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION*
2 *AND CARE*

3 **SECTION 10.7A.(a)** Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that not later
4 than July 1, 2010, certain agencies and programs relating to early childhood education and care
5 shall be consolidated.

6 **SECTION 10.7A.(b)** Task Force Established. There is established the Joint
7 Legislative Task Force on the Consolidation of Early Childhood Education and Care (Task
8 Force). The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public
9 Instruction shall work with the Task Force to develop a Consolidation Plan (Plan) to implement
10 the Plan as approved by the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly.

11 **SECTION 10.7A.(c)** Task Force Membership.

12 (1) Appointments to the Task Force shall be as follows:

- 13 a. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
15 b. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
16 Tempore of the Senate.
17 c. Three members appointed by the Governor.

18 (2) Ex-officio members. For the purpose of providing needed expertise and
19 advising, but also to avoid potential conflicts of interest, the following
20 members shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members, appointed by the
21 Governor.

- 22 a. A representative of the Division of Child Development of the
23 Department of Health and Human Services.
24 b. A representative of the Department of Public Instruction.
25 c. A representative of a local board of education.
26 d. A representative of institutions of higher education appointed by the
27 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina.
28 e. A representative of local providers of early childhood education and
29 development services.
30 f. A representative from Head Start agencies located in the State,
31 including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head
32 Start programs.
33 g. The State Director of the Head Start Collaboration.
34 h. A representative of the State agency responsible for programs under
35 part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
36 i. A representative of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental
37 Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services.

- 1 j. Any additional ad hoc members deemed beneficial to achieve the
2 goals of the Task Force.

3 Appointments to the Task Force shall be made no later than September 1, 2009.

4 Vacancies in the Task Force or a vacancy as chair of the Task Force resulting from the
5 resignation of a member or otherwise shall be filled in the same manner in which the original
6 appointment was made.

7 **SECTION 10.7A.(d)** Duties of the Task Force.

- 8 (1) In consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the
9 Department of Public Instruction, develop a Plan for a highly coordinated
10 and efficient system of early childhood education and care.
- 11 (2) Not later than January 15, 2010, establish and appoint a transition team to
12 implement the Plan approved by the General Assembly. The transition team
13 shall be responsible for guiding the transition from the multi-agency/multi-
14 program system now in place to a consolidated system and to ensure
15 continuity and quality of existing services to young children, families, and
16 early childhood programs and personnel.
- 17 (3) Adhere to the following principles in the development and implementation
18 of the Plan approved by the General Assembly.
- 19 a. Ensuring high quality programs.
 - 20 b. Ensuring core functions remain intact.
 - 21 c. Maintaining the strengths and effectiveness of each program.
 - 22 d. Identifying and proposing efficiencies.
 - 23 e. Identifying needed improvements.
 - 24 f. Streamlining administrative savings.
 - 25 g. Promoting a seamless delivery of services from birth through
26 kindergarten.
 - 27 h. Any other principles the Task Force deems relevant.
- 28 (4) Consider the following agencies and functions for consolidation:
- 29 a. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.
 - 30 b. The "More At Four" Program.
 - 31 c. Title I Prekindergarten programs.
 - 32 d. Preschool Exceptional Children.
 - 33 e. Early Intervention programs.
 - 34 f. Head Start Collaboration.
 - 35 g. Child Care Regulatory and Subsidy.
 - 36 h. Licensing and Regulatory Functions.
 - 37 i. Workforce Professional Development and Recognition.
 - 38 j. Quality Initiatives.
- 39 (5) Consult with appropriate State departments, agencies, and board
40 representatives on issues related to early childhood education and care.
- 41 (6) In developing the Plan, review and consider the proposal included in
42 Ensuring School Readiness for North Carolina's Children: Bringing the
43 Parts Together to Create an Integrated Early Care and Education System,
44 November, 2004.

45 **SECTION 10.7A.(e)** Chair; Meetings. – The Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each designate one member
47 to serve as cochair of the Task Force.

1 The cochairs shall call the initial meeting of the Task Force on or before October 1,
2 2009. The Task Force shall subsequently meet upon such notice and in such manner as its
3 members determine. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

4 **SECTION 10.7A.(f)** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Task Force shall
5 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or
6 138-6, as appropriate.

7 **SECTION 10.7A.(g)** Cooperation by Government Agencies. – The Task Force
8 may call upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political
9 subdivision thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance.

10 **SECTION 10.7A.(h)** Report. – The Task Force shall report its findings and
11 recommendations by January 15, 2010, to Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
12 Government Operations, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health
13 and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the
14 House of Representatives Subcommittee on Education, the Senate Appropriations Committee
15 on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division. The Task Force shall terminate upon filing its
16 final report.

17 **SECTION 10.7A.(i)** Proposal. -- After reviewing the report submitted by the Task
18 Force, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human
19 Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of
20 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and the Senate Appropriations
21 Committee on Education shall develop language and a budget proposal by May 30, 2010, to
22 present to the 2010 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly to implement the
23 consolidation of early childhood education and care programs, which consolidation shall
24 become effective July 1, 2010.

25 **SECTION 10.7A.(j)** Funding. – The Legislative Services Officer shall allocate
26 funds to carry out the duties of the Task Force.

27 **SECTION 10.7A.(k)** Effective date. This section becomes effective July 1, 2009.
28 Effective July 1, 2010, the Consolidation as contained in the Plan approved by the 2010
29 Regular Session of the 2009 General Assembly, shall be implemented.