

# Overview of the Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention

## North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention

- Co-convened by NC Institute of Medicine and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
- Co-chaired by NC Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom and Dr. Marian Earls of Greensboro
- 51 members representing all health and human services departments, public instruction, juvenile delinquency prevention, legislators, private non-profits, community-based agencies, universities, faith communities, and business members

## Goal: To Enhance the Capacity of North Carolina to Prevent Child Maltreatment

- There is no child maltreatment prevention “system” in North Carolina
- Develop a vision and a set of principles to guide development of such a system
- Address barriers to the successful development and implementation of effective prevention practice and policies
- Targeted primarily at state agencies and state-level policies re: funding and program direction with the goal of shared vision, shared direction for programs and funding

## Result: Development of a “Blueprint” for a Child Maltreatment Prevention System

- 37 recommendations that cover six issue areas:
  - State-level leadership
  - Surveillance system (system to monitor incidence)
  - Social norms and policies
  - Evidence-based practice
  - Enhancing existing systems that serve families and children
  - Funding

## Implications for Future Efforts:

- **Start early:** Resources should be focused on services during pregnancy and the early years of life. We need to build a strong foundation of support for expecting families and parents of young children.
- **Build prevention system developmentally:** Build services intentionally according to developmental needs of children and child/parent relationships.
- **Provide universal support:** Services must be available for all families, not just those in crisis or “at-risk.” Parenting is a challenge for all parents.
- **Integrate efforts across systems:** Systems need to work together with shared planning, outcomes, funding, training, and evaluation.
- **Informal supports have a role to play:** Churches, childcare centers, neighbors, and family centers are all a part of a universal system of support for all families.
- **Parents must play a leadership role:** Parents should and must be involved in all stages of planning.
- **Use evidence-based and promising programs:** Whenever possible, use programs that have been scientifically tested and proven to reduce maltreatment/strengthen families.