

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 13 FY 02/03
DATE 13 May 2003

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE
REORGANIZATION AND UNIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL
SERVICES**

WHEREAS, clients of the human services agencies of the State of Maine deserve effective care and assistance; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of the State expect their government to operate efficiently and to have mechanisms in place to ensure accountability for the monies that fund human services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services and Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services ("Departments") have similar missions and furnish services to adults and children who face life-obstacles due to illness, disability, age, income, language or cultural issues, substance abuse, family dysfunction, domestic or sexual abuse, or other life circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the programmatic overlap of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services results in administrative duplication that yields additional expense; and

WHEREAS, the Departments use similar funding sources and service providers; and

WHEREAS, duplicative and conflicting administrative requirements are placed on service providers by the Departments, resulting in unnecessary expense:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order the establishment of the ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE REORGANIZATION AND UNIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (hereinafter "Council").

Purpose and Duties

By 5 January 2004 the Council shall prepare a recommendation to the Governor and Legislature that provides for the unification of the Departments within a two-year period. The unification will:

- Improve service for consumers through easy access and better coordination;
- Reduce administrative costs;
- Improve fiscal and program accountability;
- Reduce duplicative administrative burdens affecting community providers;
- Develop a long-term, systems approach to service delivery;
- Improve internal and external communication;
- Increase revenue from federal and private sources through stronger partnerships with community organizations and other state agencies;
- Implement conflict resolution and problem-solving alternatives; and
- Foster a culture of respect for consumers and partnering organizations.

To accomplish those ends, the Council shall:

- Seek stakeholder and consumer input through meetings, forums, and written and electronic correspondence and contact;
- Report to the Governor and Legislature regarding progress and issues;
- Provide public information about the process;
- Advise and work with the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance regarding how health care issues can best be addressed;
- Ensure that Departmental staff have opportunity for input and are apprised of progress; and
- Use prior research conducted both in Maine and nationally.

Organization of the Council

The Council shall be composed of no more than twelve (12) gubernatorially-appointed members, who will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor and will hail from a broad spectrum of backgrounds in the private and public sector. The gubernatorially-appointed members will have the expertise to meaningfully contribute to the merger effort.

From the gubernatorially-appointed members, the Governor shall appoint a Chair of the Council, who will serve as Chair at the pleasure of the Governor. The Chair shall preside at, set the agenda for, and schedule Council meetings. Furthermore, the Chair shall ensure that relevant groups are engaged in the unification effort, that Council activities are organized to achieve objectives by designated dates, that the Governor, Legislature, general public, and Departments are informed of the progress of the merger, and that appropriate information is collected and analyzed to assist the Council in making an informed recommendation.

In addition to the members appointed to the Council by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House will be invited—but not be obligated—to appoint two

Council members each. Further, the Commissioners of the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral and Development Services, and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, and the Attorney General, will serve as *ex officio* members of the Council.

The Council shall convene no fewer times than one time a month. All meetings will be open to the public.

With the approval of the Office of the Governor, the Council may accept staffing and other administrative support to carry out its duties.

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation for their work on the Council, unless authorization by the Legislature is given.

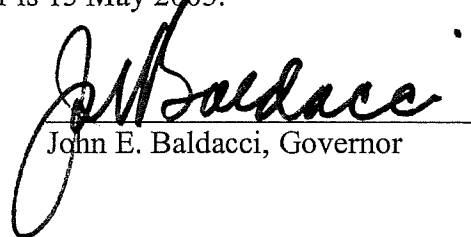
The Council, and the authority of this Executive Order, shall dissolve once its recommendations have been submitted to and accepted by the Governor.

Resources and Support

The Council will engage staff from the respective Departments, as needed to fulfill the Council's mission. Additional staffing, if necessary, will be coordinated by the Executive Department.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is 13 May 2003.



John E. Baldacci, Governor