

# **B 003 04**

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

### **CONTINUING THE STATE REHABILITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order continuing the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (the "Council").

1. Background and Need

The State of Colorado operates a rehabilitation program funded under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and authorized under C.R.S. §§ 26-8-101 to 26-8-106. Section 101(a)(36)(i) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, requires the State to establish a State Rehabilitation Advisory Council. The Council advises the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Human Services, on the provision of appropriate and quality services to persons with disabilities.

2. Membership and Organization

The Council shall consist of not more than twenty-three (23) members appointed by the Governor for three-year, staggered terms. Members may serve no more than two consecutive full terms. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Council shall be composed of; at least one representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council; at least one representative of a parent training and information center of individuals with disabilities; at least one representative of client assistance program; at least one representative of community rehabilitation program service providers; four representatives of business, industry and labor; representatives of disability and advocacy groups representing a cross section of: individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities; parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due their disabilities to present themselves; and current or former applicants for, or recipients of vocational rehabilitation services; at least one vocational rehabilitation counselor, if the counselor is an employee of Colorado Rehabilitation Services ("CRS") and the manager of CRS to serve as ex-officio members of the Council. A majority of council members shall be persons who are individuals with disabilities. The Governor shall appoint the Council Chairperson.

3. Duties and Meetings

A. The Council shall:

- (i) Advise and, at the discretion of CRS, assist in the preparation of applications, the State plan, as required by C.R.S. § 26-8.1-106, the strategic plan and amendments to the plans, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required by the Rehabilitation Act, as amended;
- (ii) Advise the Colorado Department of Social Services and the CRS regarding the development and implementation of the State Plan, and the strategic plan and amendments to the plans, and other policies and procedures of general applicability pertaining to the provision of vocational rehabilitation services in the State;
- (iii) Review, analyze, and advise CRS regarding the performance of its responsibilities, particularly relating to: eligibility (including order of section); the extent, scope, and effectiveness of services provided; and functions performed by the State agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving rehabilitation goals and objectives;
- (iv) To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with, vocational rehabilitation services; and the functions performed by State agencies and other public and private entities responsible for individuals with disabilities;
- (v) Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State, and make the report available to the public;
- (vi) Coordinate with other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council, the advisory panel established under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the State Development Disabilities Planning Council, and the State Mental Health Planning Council;
- (vii) Advise CRS and provide for the coordination and the establishment of working relationships between CRS and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and
- (viii) Perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of the Act, as the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to other functions of the Council.

B. The Council shall meet at least four times per year at the call of the Chairperson, and such meetings shall be open and accessible to the general public.

4. Directive

a. The State Rehabilitation Advisory Council is hereby continued.

b. This Executive Order shall repeal and supercede all previous Executive Orders pertaining to the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council and specifically Executive Order B 013 94.

5. Duration

The Council shall continue in existence until December 31, 2007, unless it is either terminated or extended beyond that date by Executive Order of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this \_\_\_ day of  
December, 2004.

Bill Owens  
Governor