

**B 007 99**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Creating the Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare**

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 creating the Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare.

1. Background and Purpose

In early 1999, the Governor ordered the new Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services to investigate problems in children's safety and services, identify critical issues, and propose remedial actions. This was in response to recent deaths of Colorado children whose families were receiving child welfare services as well as issues regarding mental health services for youth within the Division of Youth Corrections. The Governor ordered the review to determine how safety procedures and requirements could be strengthened to reduce the risk of harm to children in the future.

In the subsequent report, *Child Protection System Review and Recommendations*, the Executive Director recommended that the "Governor appoint an independent Task Force to review Colorado's child welfare system. The Task Force would be comprised of recognized outside public and private sector experts on children service issues as well as other interested members of the community. The Task Force would be charged with the responsibility for reviewing the adequacy of the State's present system of care and making recommendations for system improvements at both service delivery and State levels.

2. Mission and Scope

The Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare shall review the adequacy of the State's child welfare system, specifically programs, agencies and policies relating to child welfare, child care licensing, youth corrections, and mental health services. The Task Force shall review and make recommendations on both the service delivery and State levels. The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor by October 31, 1999.

3. Organization

The Task Force shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses. Any money contributed to the Task Force shall be directed to the Office of the Governor and deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Colorado in an account within the Office of Governor's budget. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation. A quorum shall consist of 12 Task Force members, and any final recommendation of the Task Force submitted to the Governor shall be approved by at least 10 voting members of the Task Force.

4. Membership

The Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare shall consist of no more than 19 members appointed by the Governor:

1. The Honorable Joe Rogers, Lieutenant Governor
2. Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director, Department of Human Services
3. Aristedes W. Zavaras, Executive Director, Department of Public Safety
4. The Honorable Kay L. Alexander, State Representative
5. The Honorable Fran Mace, State Representative
6. The Honorable Ken Arnold, State Senator
7. Robert Clyman, M.D., Kempe Children's Center
8. David M. Furman, Colorado Children's Trust Fund
9. Mary Gittings Cronin, The Piton Foundation
10. Brian Gomez, Youthful Offender System, Department of Corrections
11. The Honorable Kathy Hall, Mesa County Commissioner
12. The Honorable James H. Hiatt, Judge, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District
13. Walter F. Imhoff, Hanifen Imhoff, Inc.
14. Lynn Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst to the Governor for Families and Children
15. Donald L. Kortz, Fuller and Company
16. Hildegard Messenbaugh, M.D., Third Way Center
17. Barbara O'Brien, Colorado Children's Campaign
18. Howard P. Shiffman, Emily Griffith Center
19. Amy Stephens, Focus on the Family

The Governor shall appoint one member of the Task Force to serve as the chair of the Task Force. The chair shall adopt such procedural rules as necessary to conduct Task Force meetings and other business.

The chair of the Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare shall be: Joe Rogers,  
Lieutenant Governor.  
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5. Duration

The Task Force shall sunset upon submission of its final report and recommendations to the Governor on October 31, 1999, unless otherwise extended or terminated by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and  
the Executive Seal of the  
State Of Colorado, this  
seventeenth day of May,  
1999.

Bill Owens  
Governor