

EXECUTIVE ORDER

March 9, 2004

04-03

Establishment of the Office of Health and Human Services and Managing Director of Health and Human Services

WHEREAS, five (5) state health and human services departments in Rhode Island, specifically: The Department of Children, Youth and Families; The Department of Elderly Affairs; The Department of Health; The Department of Human Services; and the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (collectively, the “Departments”) in the aggregate report serving more than 284,000 Rhode Islanders, including infants, children, adults and elderly who require state health and human services programs and benefits; and

WHEREAS, the cost of such care is over \$2.3 billion per year, or approximately forty-one percent of all government expenditures, and, based upon rising demand for health and human services, the cost of providing these services is expected to increase significantly; and

WHEREAS, duplication of services to clients common to the Departments is significant and the missions of the Departments overlap; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of centralized planning, budgeting, policy-making, communications and adequate coordination of the various health and human service programs, resulting in impairment of service delivery and inability to adequately respond to increasing demands; and

WHEREAS, there are redundancies and inefficiencies in processing client benefits, inadequate efforts to track and re-certify client eligibility and a failure to fully maximize bulk purchasing power; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for structured and formal inter-departmental cooperation and collaboration that draws upon the strengths of Rhode Island's health and human services delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, a single Office of Health and Human Services will facilitate cooperation and coordination among the five Departments; and

WHEREAS, creation of an Office of Health and Human Services will best be achieved through a phased approach involving, first, administrative consolidation, second, statutory consolidation, and throughout the process, regular stakeholder consultation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald L. Carcieri, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order as follows:

1. An Office of Health and Human Services (the "Office") is hereby established within the Executive Department of the State, to be supervised by a Managing Director selected by, and who will serve at the pleasure of, the Governor.
2. The Managing Director shall implement the establishment of the Office in two phases, as follows:
 - Phase One. The Managing Director shall begin, as soon as practicable, to centralize within the Office integrated, inter-Departmental functions, including, but not limited to, policy, planning, budgeting, financing, purchasing, communication, procurement, pharmacy purchasing, training and staff development. The Managing Director is hereby empowered to take all steps necessary to achieve this centralization. The directors of the Departments shall cooperate with the Managing Director to achieve centralization in Phase One as efficiently, effectively, and quickly as possible. In addition, the Managing Director, at the Governor's direction, shall initiate and direct such inter-Departmental activities or programs as may be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of this Order.
 - Phase Two. The Office, under the guidance of the Managing Director and with the assistance of the Department directors and such other persons, ad hoc, as the Governor may assign from time to time, shall review and recommend changes to laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, administrative structures and other mechanisms necessary or appropriate to creating a combined Secretariat, Cabinet or other statutory Office of Health and Human Services reporting directly to the Governor, to be an effective and efficient single public health and human services delivery system. The Managing Director, with the assistance of the Department directors and such other persons, ad hoc, as the Governor may assign from time to time, shall identify how best to administer, staff and coordinate health and human

services delivery on behalf of all Rhode Islanders, and to provide measurable, outcome-based services. The Managing Director shall provide to the Governor a recommendation and plan for full implementation of a fully integrated Office of Health and Human Services on or before September 1, 2004.

3. The Departments, and such other departments and agencies of the State as may be appropriate from time to time, shall assist and cooperate with the Office and shall allocate or provide resources as appropriate at the request of the Managing Director in furtherance of this Order.
4. The Managing Director shall provide regular and timely reports to the Governor, and shall develop and enact a plan to keep all stakeholders current on implementation processes and structures.
5. The Managing Director shall make recommendations to the Governor in furtherance of the Governor's health and human services agenda.
6. Nothing in this Executive Order shall change the statutory or regulatory duties of the directors of the Departments.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereto and shall remain in effect until notified by the Governor that its services are no longer required.

So Ordered:

Donald L. Carcieri

Dated: _____