

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 40

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING, AS AMENDED,
THE MONTANA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, homelessness in Montana is a significant and growing problem that leaves the most vulnerable citizens without access to the means to meet their basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, during a statewide survey of the homeless administered in Montana's eight largest population centers on January 31, 2006, 2,311 homeless persons were identified, including 386 families and 1,222 homeless individuals, 164 of whom could be classified as chronically homeless; and

WHEREAS, the causes of homelessness and the needs of the homeless are many and complex, crossing service and issue boundaries, resulting in social, personal, familial, community, agency and program costs; and

WHEREAS, homelessness in Montana and the programs to address it are primarily concentrated in larger population centers; and

WHEREAS, the numerous programs designed to serve homeless persons often work independently; and

WHEREAS, homeless persons often struggle with disabilities and issues that make it difficult for them to self advocate or to comply with the various requirements of a variety of programs; and

WHEREAS, to be effective, the resources and programs to help homeless persons must be coordinated across systems, agencies and organizations at all levels; and

WHEREAS, overarching strategies and the coordinated application of state, federal and other resources are critical to reducing homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby continue, as amended, the Montana Council on Homelessness as provided in this Executive Order.

I. PURPOSE:

The Montana Council on Homelessness shall:

- A. advise the Governor and state agencies on policy issues related to the problems of the homeless, identify available resources throughout the State and nation and provide recommendations for joint and cooperative efforts and policy initiatives for programs to meet the needs of the homeless;
- B. recommend to the Governor short- and long-term goals and annual priorities to reduce homelessness. As its first charge, the Council shall review, revise, and finalize a proposed 10-year plan to end homelessness begun by the members of the 2004-06 Montana Council on Homelessness. The Council shall present the 10-year plan to the Department of Public Health and Human Services for its approval and adoption. Once adopted by the Department, the Council shall take steps to encourage its implementation; and
- C. provide an annual report to the Governor that includes:
 - i. the state of homelessness in Montana;
 - ii. progress that has been made toward ending chronic homelessness and reducing homelessness overall;
 - iii. accomplishments resulting from coordination, integration and technical assistance; and
 - iv. identification of barriers to coordination among the agencies of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Team.

II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING TEAM ON HOMELESSNESS:

The Montana Council on Homelessness shall work with an Intergovernmental Team on Homelessness. As requested by the Council, all state agencies who provide services to homeless individuals shall participate on the Intergovernmental Team on Homelessness. Additionally, the Council shall invite representatives of federal, tribal, and local agencies who provide services to the homeless to participate on the Intergovernmental Team on Homelessness.

The Intergovernmental Coordinating Team on Homelessness shall assist the Council in its preparation of the 10-year plan to end homelessness. After the proposed plan is approved by the Department, the Intergovernmental Coordinating Team on Homelessness shall assist the Council in its effort to implement the plan.

III. COMPOSITION:

The Council shall consist of 14 members, as indicated below, whose names and addresses will be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State. Members shall reflect the rich diversity of Montana's citizenry and communities.

Co-chairs:

- Division Administrator, Human and Community Services Division, DPHHS
- Lt. Governor or other Governor's Office designee

Representatives of:

1. Business Sector/Economic Development
2. Chemical Dependency Treatment
3. Community Law Enforcement or Corrections
4. Constituent (homeless or previously homeless person)

5. Continuum of Care (covers emergency and transitional shelters)
6. Education, Employment and Training
7. Faith Community
8. Healthcare for the Homeless
9. Public Housing
10. Mental Health Treatment
11. Urban Indian Centers
12. Veterans' Organizations

The Council is attached to the Department of Public Health and Human Services ("Department") for administrative purposes. The Department will provide technical and administrative assistance to the Council.

IV. COMPENSATION:

Montana Council on Homelessness members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Human and Community Services Division in an amount to be determined by the Department head, not to exceed \$25 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of Advisory Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

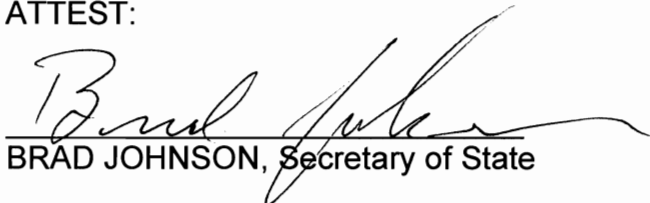
V. DURATION:

This Order is effective 12/21, 2006. The Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this Order.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 21 day of December, 2006.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:


BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State