



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HER EXCELLENCY
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2014-8

an order establishing the Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services to At-Risk Adolescent Youth in New Hampshire

WHEREAS, the well-being of our youth is critical to the well-being of our society, economy, and fellow citizens in New Hampshire;

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire is responsible for ensuring that at-risk youth are able to find effective support and meaningful services at home, in our schools, in our communities, and in our juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Legislature authorized the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to combine its Division of Juvenile Justice with its Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) in order to serve all youth within a single organization within DHHS and in order to ensure that services are provided to at-risk youth with the overarching philosophy of rehabilitation and treatment, as opposed to incarceration and corrections;

WHEREAS, New Hampshire is preparing to return 17-year-olds to New Hampshire's juvenile justice and rehabilitation system;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services will engage an independent organization with national expertise to conduct a review of the Sununu Youth Services Center and juvenile justice services and to make recommendations on how New Hampshire can improve its juvenile justice structure, management, and policies; and

WHEREAS, a Commission to review and advise on the services provided in New Hampshire to at-risk adolescents, assessing policies, procedures, treatments, services, and rehabilitation supports, will help ensure that New Hampshire takes the best possible approach to, and improves outcomes for, vulnerable and troubled youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby establish the Governor's Commission on At-Risk Youth Services, which shall include a diverse group of experts in public safety, public health, and child services to help ensure that New Hampshire's most at-risk youth receive the support that they need to rehabilitate and become successful members of society.

FURTHER, the Commission shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Governor:

- 1) One member of the House Children and Family Law Committee, recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 2) One member of the House Finance Committee, recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 3) One member of the Senate, recommended by the Senate President.
- 4) The bureau chief of the Bureau of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, or designee.
- 5) The commissioner of the Department of Education, or designee.
- 6) One justice from the New Hampshire Circuit Court, focusing on juvenile justice, recommended by the administrative judge of the circuit court.
- 7) One superintendent of a county correctional facility, recommended by the New Hampshire Association of Counties.
- 8) One parent whose child has received services at the Sununu Youth Services Center.
- 9) A non-supervisory employee of the Sununu Youth Services Center, who has daily contact with children assigned to the center, recommended by the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Chapter 21 President.
- 10) One juvenile probation and parole officer, recommended by the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 11) One attorney specializing in juvenile justice.
- 12) One representative of a juvenile diversion program.
- 13) One member of the Division of Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Board, recommended by the board.

FURTHER, the commissioner of Health Human Services, or designee, shall serve as an *ex officio* member.

FURTHER, the legislative members of the board and the commissioners shall serve terms co-terminous with their terms in office. The remaining members of the board shall serve three-year terms.

FURTHER, each appointed member of the Commission shall hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified. The appointment of successors for the filling of vacancies for unexpired terms shall be by appointment in the same manner as the original appointment.

FURTHER, the Commission shall elect its own chairperson. The commissioners shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson; however, the commissioner of Health and Human Services shall call the first meeting within 45 days of this Executive Order. The Commission shall meet six times during the first year; thereafter, the Commission shall meet at least four times annually. Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

FURTHER, on or before the anniversary of the first meeting, the Commission shall submit a written report to the Governor, the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human

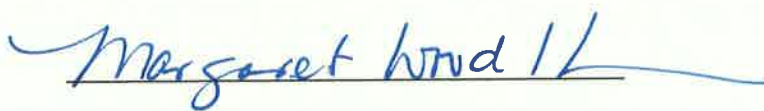
Services, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate. The report shall detail the activities of the board and any recommendations made by the board to the department relative to services for at-risk youth. The report shall include the Commission's assessment of the policies and procedures of the Sununu Youth Services Center.

FURTHER, the duties of the Commission shall include:

- 1) Acting in an advisory and oversight capacity to assist the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, the administrator responsible for juvenile justice services and the administrator responsible for the Sununu Youth Services Center relative to juvenile justice programs and services provided to children at the youth development center and other juvenile justice facilities. The board shall also provide advice and input on fiscal and budgetary matters and shall make recommendations to the commissioner and the administrators responsible for juvenile justice services and the Sununu Youth Services Center on ways to reduce costs at the youth development center. The Commission shall also explore the availability of state and federal grants, business partnerships, and other funding sources that may be available to the department for such facilities.
- 2) Assessing whether the Sununu Youth Services Center is meeting the objectives of RSA 621:2 and seeking information from the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the successes and challenges relative to the state's juvenile justice programs and services, including reviewing any reports provided to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Sununu Youth Services Center and juvenile justice services.
- 3) Addressing emergent issues identified by the commissioner of Health and Human Services, the administrators of juvenile justice services or the Sununu Youth Services Center, the chair of the advisory board, or any board member. In furtherance of this paragraph, the board may solicit comments from the public or any other entities as it deems appropriate.

FURTHER, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide administrative support to the Commission.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 2nd day of October, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and fourteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-nine.



GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE