

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 4 FY 90/91
DATE August 16, 1990

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION TO ANALYZE THE
SERVICE SYSTEM FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION

WHEREAS, over the past decade many changes have occurred in the content and structure of services to persons with mental retardation;

WHEREAS, new technologies, treatment modalities, and service philosophy have emerged, including greater importance of involving consumers and families in planning for service structure;

WHEREAS, the number of persons with mental retardation receiving services from the State has now reached 4,000, increasing by nearly 250 per year in recent years;

WHEREAS, the average cost per client has increased over the past decade;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan for mental retardation services has now been legislatively mandated;

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is now required to develop rules for extending to all persons with mental retardation the entitlements contained in the Pineland Consent Decree, as resources permit;

WHEREAS, the recent slowdown in the Northeast economy has strained the State's resources for meeting all needs of Maine citizens and requires an analysis of the most effective use of existing resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR., Governor, do hereby establish the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission to Analyze the Service System for Persons with Mental Retardation.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Governor's Commission is to make recommendations aimed at implementing a state-wide service delivery system which makes the most effective use of the State's resources for all persons with mental retardation. This will be achieved by analyzing the present system to which the resources are allocated. The system includes the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Bureau of Mental Retardation, both central and regional offices; the community-based agencies with whom the Bureau and the Department of Human Services contract for services; consumer and parent groups; and the Bureau of Medical Services of the Department of Human Services.

Follow-up on recommendations made by the Governor's Commission shall be monitored by the Maine Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation, and shall be incorporated into the comprehensive planning process for the State's Mental Retardation Plan.

Membership:

There shall be sixteen members as follows:

--those eight individuals who serve as chairs or presidents of the following committees and organizations, as of the date of this Executive Order: Maine Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation, Consumer Advisory Board, Maine Association of Private Residential Facilities, Developmental Disabilities Council, and Maine Association of Rehabilitation Services, the Rural Collaborative, the Committee on Transition, and Pineland Board of Visitors;

--the Director of Maine Advocacy Services;

--the Chief Advocate of the Office of Advocacy, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (DMHMR);

--the Director and one staff of the Bureau of Mental Retardation, DMHMR;

--the Superintendent of Pineland;

--the Director or designee and one staff of the Bureau of Medical Services, Department of Human Services (DHS);

--one at-large member appointed by the Governor.

Functions and Duties:

The Governor's Commission shall carry out the following tasks:

- review current system, its organization and operation;
- review the Gettings Report and analyze the relevance of its recommendations
- review the Consent Decree and the impact of extending its entitlements to all citizens with Mental Retardation
- review progress and accomplishments of other efforts such as the State's comprehensive Mental Retardation Plan, the Governor's Commission on Supported Employment, the Committee on Transition, and the Developmental Disabilities Council
- solicit input from consumers, advocacy groups, and providers regarding system changes
- review models employed in other states
- develop recommendations aimed at implementing system changes, both immediate and long term.

Administration:

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall ensure staff support to the Governor's Commission in order to carry out the purpose of this Executive Order.

Reports:

An interim report shall be submitted to the Governor in six months, and a final report in 12 months.

Term of Membership:

Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Commission shall dissolve upon completion of the final report.

Officers:

The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members, to serve for the term described above.

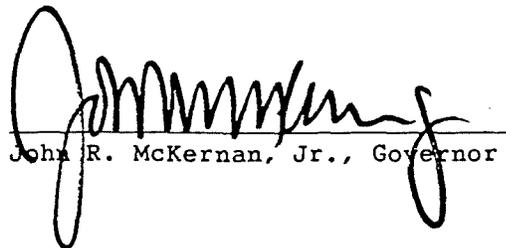
Meetings:

Meetings shall be at the call of the Chair. At least seven days' notice shall be given to members prior to each meeting.

Compensation:

Members shall serve without compensation. All legally allowed expenditures incurred by members, while in the performance of their Commission duties, shall be reimbursed by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

The effective date of this Order is August 16, 1990.


John R. McKernan, Jr., Governor