

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 10 FY 95/96

DATE May 20, 1996

**AN ORDER CREATING THE MAINE TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive, effective community-based system of care for Maine citizens with serious mental illness is essential for the well-being of all the people of the State of Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, the development and operation of such a community-based mental health system will occur within parameters established by legislative policy, financial constraints and legal obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, in developing this system within these parameters and defining the appropriate role of state institutions within that system, it is desirable to involve participants with a wide variety of perspectives,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Maine Task Force on Mental Health.

**Purpose**

The Task Force's charge is to make recommendations on how best to serve the needs of Maine citizens with serious mental illness through the development of a community-based system of care.

To carry out the purpose of the Task Force, the members shall address the following goals:

- identify strategies to support the implementation of the mental health system plan developed during the past year;
- improve the interconnections between the judicial and correctional systems and community-based agencies;
- explore options for integrating consumers of mental health services into community settings;
- discuss the needs of stakeholders, including consumers, family members, providers and community members within the mental health system;

- define the appropriate role for state hospitals, and
- develop a plan to move from bridge to permanent funding for community systems of care

To carry out the purpose of the Task Force, the members shall use the best information from all sources and in a variety of forms including data and information about existing services throughout the state; expert input regarding state-of-the-art mental health systems throughout the country; existing financial and client profile data; as well as data and information developed by the Task Force.

### **Membership**

The Task Force shall be composed of no more than 21 members drawn from mental health constituent groups and broader community interests. The role of all members is to serve and represent the best interests of the State as a whole.

The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate will appoint a member from the House and Senate respectively. All other members shall be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Task Force shall disband upon the discharge of its duties outlined below or October 1, 1996, whichever occurs earlier.

The Chair of the Task Force shall be designated by the Governor and the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

### **Timeline for Recommendations**

The Task Force shall make its recommendations to the Governor no later than October 1, 1996.

### **Meetings**

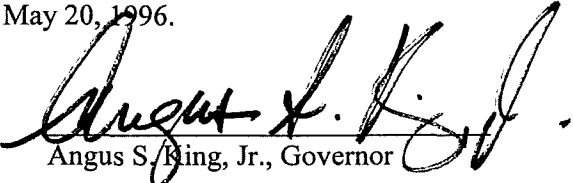
The Task Force shall meet as often as necessary to complete the assigned duties. All meetings shall be open to the public and held in locations determined by the Task Force.

### **Staffing/Funding**

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall provide staff to the Task Force, within existing resources. Public members may be compensated for reasonable travel expenses by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation upon demonstration of need.

### **Effective Date**

The effective date of this Executive Order is May 20, 1996.

  
Angus S. King, Jr., Governor