

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

AT CHARLESTON

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9-13

By the Governor

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness was established by Executive Order 9-04 to address the problem of homelessness through coordinated program development and delivery of essential services; and

WHEREAS, the latest snapshot provided by the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that there are 633,782 people experiencing homelessness on a given night in the United States, with 38 percent of those people being families, 16 percent being chronically homeless, and 13 percent being veterans; and

WHEREAS, the latest snapshot completed by the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness estimates that there are 3000 people experiencing homelessness on a given night in West Virginia, with 45 percent being families, 18 percent being chronically homeless, and 15 percent being veterans; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data reflects that from 2012 to 2013 there was an 11 percent increase in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness' annual Point in Time Count found that nearly half of the individuals experiencing homelessness in West Virginia have chronic substance abuse issues and more than 28 percent have a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Department of Education Data for School Year 2011 showed that 6,630 children and youth enrolled in WV public schools were homeless at some point during the year; and

WHEREAS, multiple state agencies bear the responsibility of serving people experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness requires collaboration among state agencies, local governments, the private sector and service provider networks to coordinate program development, deliver essential services and provide housing; and

WHEREAS, ending or reducing homelessness contributes to economic development and improves the overall quality of life within our communities; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Council and the services it provides are compatible with the Department of Health and Human Resources' mission, and the Council is best suited to be placed under the supervision of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the State of West Virginia, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** that the West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness is hereby transferred from the Department of Commerce, Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, effective herewith. The transfer of the Council shall include transfer of all personnel, property, equipment, records, documents, books, maps, charts, plans, grants, contracts, programs, literature of any kind, and any and all federal and state funds heretofore allotted to the West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness. I further order as follows:

1. The WV Interagency Council on Homelessness (the "Council") is continued to develop and implement a plan to prevent and end homelessness in the State of West Virginia.

2. The Council shall be chaired by the Commissioner of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, or his or her designee.
3. In addition to the Chair, the Council shall be comprised of the following seven members, each of whom shall serve without compensation. The Governor, at his discretion, may appoint additional members to the Council.
 - a. The Governor, or his designee;
 - b. The Commissioner of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families, or his or her designee;
 - c. The Secretary of the WV Department of Veterans' Assistance, or his or her designee;
 - d. The Superintendent of the WV Department of Education, or his or her designee;
 - e. The Executive Director of the WV Housing Development Fund, or his or her designee;
 - f. The Secretary of the WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, or his or her designee; and
 - g. A representative from the Office of Economic Opportunity.
4. Members of the Council shall attend meetings and vote in person.
5. The Council shall serve as a statewide homelessness planning and policy development resource for the Governor and the State of West Virginia, and shall:
 - a. Develop a plan to prevent and end homelessness in West Virginia including evidence-based improvements to programs and policies that will ensure services and housing are provided in an efficient, cost-effective, and productive manner.
 - b. Develop recommendations to:
 - i. expand and maximize housing resources;
 - ii. increase access to mainstream state and federal social service resources such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Social Security Income (SSI), and veterans benefits;

- iii. expand and maximize service resources such as mental health and substance abuse services;
 - iv. improve cross system policies and procedures through system integration, streamlined application and eligibility processes, and improved outreach;
 - v. ensure persons in state institutions have access to services that will help prevent homelessness upon their discharge.
- c. Develop a strategy to implement the plan and to recommend resource, policy and regulatory changes necessary to accomplish the goals of the plan;
 - d. Recommend and assist in developing partnerships with private entities, including corporate, philanthropic and faith and community-based organizations, as well as the federal and local government, to obtain involvement and support to achieve the goals of the plan;
 - e. Monitor and oversee the implementation of the plan to ensure accountability and consistent results;
 - f. Identify and maximize the leveraging of resources to improve the system of services for people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless; and
 - g. Submit an annual report to the Governor for consideration of the Council's recommendations.
6. The Council shall be supported by a work group to assist it in its duties and make recommendations about its work. The work group shall report its activities and recommendations to the Council. The work group may be comprised of state agency staff, representatives of the state's continuum of care organizations, a statewide homeless advocacy group, and other public and private entities as determined by the Council. The work group shall also assist the Council in reaching out to local communities regarding the state's plan to prevent and end homelessness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the twenty-first day of November, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Thirteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-First year of the State.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Earl Ray Tomblin", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Natalie Emmert", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE