

WHEREAS, there is a critical need in the State of Texas to upgrade the quality of correctional care, and rehabilitative services for Texas youth, and to coordinate their delivery to the persons in need; and,

WHEREAS, numerous State agencies operate programs in child care and rehabilitation; but the thrust of the services performed by these agencies needs coordination so that presently existing resources will not be wasted and will be more effective, and

WHEREAS, there exist in the State programs which have proven successful in the care and rehabilitation of Texas youth; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the need for effective use of presently existing resources and established programs, there exists the need for a comprehensive inventory of means and a determination of the need for additional services and programs.

THEREFORE, I have determined that a two phased effort must be made in attempting to improve the State's effectiveness and efforts in this field.

First, to insure the best use of that which we now have and to avoid loss due to duplication or overlapping, I hereby establish an Interagency Task Force on Youth Care and Rehabilitation in the State of Texas to take immediate action to coordinate and thereby improve service to Texas youth in the field of youth care and rehabilitation. In improving the delivery of rehabilitative and social services to troubled youth, I charge this Special Task Force with:

- 1) Strengthening interagency coordination in order to eliminate duplication, fragmentation and overlap of services.
- 2) Utilizing existing, available public and private resources to further develop and implement those programs which have proven successful.
- 3) Recommending needed legislation, if any, to the Governor.
- 4) Promoting public education and awareness of State youth care and rehabilitative programs.

This Task Force will operate under my personal supervision, chaired by my Executive Assistant, and it shall be composed of those member agencies of the Interagency Health and Human Resources Council directly concerned with youth affairs and who dedicate significant resources to providing care and rehabilitation services to youth, as follows:

Commissioner, Texas Department of Welfare
Commissioner, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardat.
Commissioner, Texas State Department of Health
Executive Director, Texas Rehabilitation Commission
Executive Director, Texas Youth Council
Commissioner, Texas Education Agency

The Governor's Office, through the Division of Planning Coordination, Department of Community Affairs, Criminal Justice Council, and Office of Comprehensive Health Planning, will support the field programs in the following ways:

- 1) The Criminal Justice Council will seek grants and provide planning for the areas of diversion, correction and rehabilitation.
- 2) The Texas Department of Community Affairs will provide support in the areas of early childhood development, drugs, manpower, and employment programs.
- 3) The Office of Comprehensive Health Planning will offer assistance in the health planning field and review grant requests.
- 4) The Division of Planning Coordination will coordinate available services and resources and facilitate interagency action.

Beyond those long-range objectives, I am directing the Task Force to begin immediate action on the following:

First, to present to me a statewide plan for the development of the most effective, economical and humanitarian programs of social services in all appropriate state agencies. This plan should be designed to comply with new federal regulations and policies and should have, as an additional objective, the goal of making Texas eligible for the maximum amount of federal funds available for youth-oriented programs.

Second, to develop and submit to me for my review and consideration a statewide plan to enable as many young people as possible to remain in their own homes--or in their home communities--under appropriate care and supervision, with the objective of reducing the extent of unnecessary institutionalization.

Third, to develop a program--using existing resources--to give our judges and our court systems trained, competent people to advise the courts on the best possible treatment and the most appropriate care for each young person who comes before the court.

Fourth, to create an Office of Inspections--which would report directly to the Task Force--and give the head of that Office the authority to look into any complaints regarding the mistreatment of children.

Fifth, to conduct a complete review, for my office, of all state plans for which federal funds are being received, in order to ascertain whether there can be any simplification or better coordination of these programs--or more effective use of state or federal funds.

Sixth, to develop a comprehensive program of child abuse prevention.

Seventh, to conduct an intensive review, in each government agency, of the qualifications and competency of the personnel in the licensing and inspection divisions.

Eighth, to review all licensing procedures--and to require prelicensing of all new institutions before they are allowed to open.

I call upon this group to meet regularly, and upon my call, to assure maximum coordination among the agencies and activities concerned with youth care and rehabilitation programs. I ask each member of this Task Force, their support staff personnel, and every other State agency and private organization concerned in this field to personally exert every possible effort to assist in the coordination and improvement of youth care and rehabilitation programs in this State.

There may well be duplication of effort and ineffective use of resources by the agencies dealing with parts of child care and rehabilitation development in the State. These have been pointed up by testimony before the House Human Resources Committee, Chaired By Representative Carlos Truan, and by recent developments in connection with the child care institutions. But I am convinced that within the Executive Branch of Texas State Government, the ability exists to eliminate duplication and to present additional and improved services, and this is the purpose of my action. The Task Force will be called upon to determine the existence and extent of duplication and to take appropriate action through their respective agencies.

If in an attempt to coordinate the work of the agencies it is determined that reorganization or additional legislation is needed, I will recommend it to the Legislature. I will also recommend additional funds as these are needed.

I am asking the various private groups who are interested in youth care and rehabilitation in this State to put their shoulders to the wheel and communicate their ideas and recommendations to my Division of Planning Coordination. I am also specifically calling upon the Texas Commission on Services to Children and Youth to assist the Task Force and my office in the accomplishment of all these aims.

Secondly, I am asking the Division of the Governor's Office, with the advice of the Special Task Force, to initiate a comprehensive study to inventory existing facilities and services and to recommend ways and means of upgrading the services of Texas State Government to youth in the broadest and most comprehensive manner--early development, education and care and rehabilitation of troubled and disadvantaged youth.

The Task Force will report its findings, recommendations and conclusions to me and make such interim reports as may be requested.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by me.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 10th Day of October, 1973

Filed in the office of
Secretary of State

OCT 10 1973

By *Lyle S. Brinkman*
Director Adm. Div.



Dolph Briscoe
Governor of Texas

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Secretary of State