

The Governor

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Executive Orders

AWR 91-13

CONTINUING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, women comprise more than half the population of our nation and of this state;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the potential of all citizens be utilized to the fullest extent without regard to sex, race, religion, geographic location, national origin, or economic status;

WHEREAS, the achievement of this goal will be facilitated by a firm commitment to the physical, mental, and emotional health of women and equal access to information, education, and training; and

WHEREAS, this goal can best be accomplished by continuing and redirecting the Governor's Commission for Women,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ann W. Richards, Governor of the State of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby order that the Governor's Commission for Women, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, is hereby continued without interruption. The purpose of the Commission is to work towards the goal of achieving equal health, educational, economic, political, legal, and social opportunity and advancement for all citizens of our state.

The Commission shall consist of twenty-nine (29) members appointed by the Governor for a term to expire February 1, 1993. Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza shall serve as Chairperson and Dr. Mirian Sokol shall serve as Vice-Chairperson at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director who shall assist the Commission as it adopts rules and procedures and develops and implements activities consistent with the provisions of the executive order.

The Commission will have as its principal charge the achievement of the following:

- (a) Identify, assess, and develop strategies, including community outreach activities, public-private partnerships, and coordination of community and state resources, to improve the mental, physical, and emotional health of women in Texas;
- (b) Focus attention on the special needs of women and families relating to health and safety, such as information and education about nutrition and preventive medicine; access to health services in rural and border areas of the state; availability and affordability of health insurance for low income families; and counseling and services for individuals in recovery programs;
- (c) Support research/development activities that seek to incorporate the needs of women in the long-range planning process for Texas, being especially sensitive to such issues as health and safety, education, work and family policies, legal rights, and economic security;
- (d) Participate with other established task forces and policy groups, especially in the areas of health and human services, education and training, and economic security;
- (e) Secure recognition of citizens' accomplishments and contributions to Texas;
- (f) Maintain a clearinghouse of research, statistics, and information on the status of women;
- (g) Monitor federal and state legislation relating to issues affecting women; and
- (h) Establish a State Agency Council to assist the Commission in fulfilling its charge.

The Commission shall make an annual written report of its findings, activities, and recommendations to the Governor.

The Commission shall meet quarterly or at the call of the Chairperson. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Commission.

The members of the Commission shall serve without salary but may be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred while attending officially called meetings of the Commission.

This Executive Order shall be effectively immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on November 6, 1991.

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Ann W. Richards
Governor of Texas