State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

07-07

August 15, 2007

THE GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the total number of people served at emergency shelters in Rhode Island last year was 6,889, including 882 families; and

WHEREAS, the availability and accessibility of safe emergency shelters are critical to the safety and well being of the homeless; and

WHEREAS, my administration has taken a number of pro-active steps to combat homelessness, including the opening of Harrington Hall in 2003; the development of a comprehensive plan to end homelessness; the approval of a $50 million affordable housing bond in 2006; consistent funding for the Neighborhood Opportunity Program; and the recent reform of our state homeless shelter system; and

WHEREAS, despite these important efforts, homelessness has continued to be a major problem in the State of Rhode Island as affordable housing remains difficult to obtain and the effects of homelessness continue to adversely impact the State's general welfare and economy; and

WHEREAS, the State's significant interest in developing effective strategies and solutions to address the problems of homelessness including preventing discharge from State care and State institutions and making provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing requires collaboration and coordination of resources at all levels of government, and with community, volunteer and faith-based organizations, as well as businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. That the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness established by Executive Order 03-17 is reactivated with a charge of examining problems associated with homelessness and developing and implementing strategies and programs for assuring a coordinated, effective response to reduce homelessness in Rhode Island.

2. Specifically, the Interagency Council shall:

   a. Coordinate services for the homeless among state agencies and instrumentalities, community, faith-based and volunteer organizations, advocacy groups and businesses;

   b. Identify and seek to remedy gaps in services, specifically in the area of availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

   c. Develop strategies and recommendations to address the problems associated with chronic homelessness that will serve to reduce the number of homeless people in Rhode Island; and

   d. Promote and support the development of permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities, the reentry population and youth aging out of foster care.

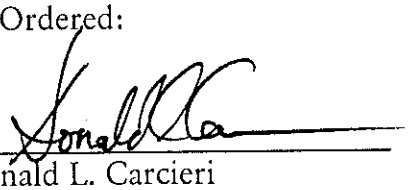
3. Interagency Council members shall include: the Director of Human Services or designee; the Director of the Department of Health or designee; the Director of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families or designee; the Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs or designee; the Director of the Department of Mental Health, Retardation & Hospitals or designee; the Director of the Department of Labor and Training or designee; the Director of the Department of Corrections or designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Education or designee; the Director of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation; the Chief of Housing and Community Development; the Chair of the Housing Resources Commission and a representative of the Governor's office.

4. The Interagency Council shall meet annually and shall report to the Governor its findings and recommendations for reducing chronic homelessness and improving services to Rhode Island's homeless. Meetings may be combined with the Governor's Steering Committee on Reentry

which includes the same members and whose work often focuses on the same population. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof and shall remain in effect through July 20, 2009.

So Ordered:



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Dated: 8/15/07