

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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MAY 20 1996

Executive Order #282

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

**Relating to the Creation of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on
Mental Health Care**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is in need of a comprehensive examination of mental health care services; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a substantial interest in ensuring quality mental health care for those in need while expending resources in an efficient and reasonable manner; and

WHEREAS, these objectives will require a forward looking approach and a thorough plan for Wisconsin encompassing a vision for the next twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, the last comprehensive study conducted on mental health services, approximately twenty-five (25) years ago, concluded that Wisconsin should move away from a system that was principally operated by the State using large state institutions as the primary source of care with the counties providing long-term custodial care; and

WHEREAS, the people of Wisconsin enacted, as a result of said study, legislation which became known as Section 51.42 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which established a state-county partnership with a major emphasis on reducing institutional care at the state level and developing county-based treatment services; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin must closely examine the present mental health care delivery system and how said system should evolve into the twenty-first century; and

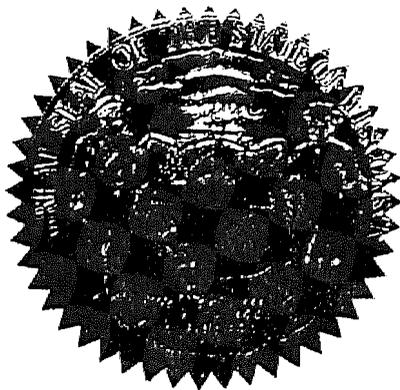
WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin needs to explore redesigning its mental health care delivery system to ensure that persons in need of tax supported mental health services are provided with access to appropriate, high quality and cost effective services that promote health and wellness, improvement and recovery, and quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, and specifically by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Establish the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Care;
2. Provide that the Commission shall consist of not more than forty (40) members appointed by the Governor to serve at the pleasure of the Governor;

3. Provide that the membership of the Commission shall include representatives from government, the mental health professions, the public and private sector and individuals who have an interest in the future direction of mental health care in Wisconsin;
4. Provide that the Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor;
5. Direct the Commission to develop a long term plan for mental health services in Wisconsin and in so doing undertake the following:
 - a. Review Wisconsin's mental health care delivery system and the principle of a state/county partnership in the operation of said system, define essential services and recommend model delivery systems that are effective in an environment that emphasizes managed care, client outcomes and performance contracting;
 - b. Undertake a thorough examination of mental health services and the needs of children, adolescents, adults and elderly and make specific recommendations for development of a service system targeted at prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery and positive client outcomes;
 - c. Identify and recommend key elements and structures which should be present in order to make Wisconsin's system and services efficient, effective, and accountable;
 - d. Examine the impact of stigma on current community perceptions and current mental health policies and make recommendations to reduce stigma in Wisconsin mental health policies and programs;
 - e. Review and make recommendations regarding the roles of the federal, state and county governments in the mental health services within the framework of federal, state and county funding sources, as well as various plans for health insurance and managed care; and
 - f. Serve as the mental health component of the Department of Health and Social Services Long-Term Care Redesign Initiative.

6. Direct the Chair of the Commission to create subcommittees as necessary to draw upon the expertise of interested consumers, advocates, provider groups, and others throughout the State.
7. Direct the Commission to solicit public comment and strongly encourage other interested groups to participate in order to allow citizens an opportunity to have their views considered.
8. Direct that the departments and agencies of state government cooperate with and assist the Commission in carrying out its duties.
9. Provide that the Commission shall submit a final report on its recommendations to the Governor by December 1996 with specific steps in an interim report due during the Summer of 1996 for use during the 1997-1999 legislative session.
10. Provide that the Commission shall disband once the final report has been submitted to the Governor.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and
caused the Great Seal of the State
of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done
at the Capitol in the City of
Madison this thirteenth day of
May in the year one thousand
nine hundred and ninety-six.


TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State