EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18-01

BUILDING OREGON'S COMMITMENT TO ADDICTION PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY PRIORITIES, AND SETTING DEADLINES FOR STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, AND DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, Oregonians struggle with addiction to alcohol or drugs every day; and

WHEREAS, serving people struggling with addiction is a responsibility borne by many state agencies; and

WHEREAS, addiction is often considered to be an acute crisis but in reality is a chronic, but treatable, disease; and

WHEREAS, addiction treatment and recovery support services are unfortunately beyond reach for many Oregonians in need, especially for Oregonians in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, culturally sensitive addiction treatment and recovery support services are not sufficiently available to historically underserved Oregonians; and

WHEREAS, more than half of youth and adults prosecuted in the criminal justice system enter with addiction or a dual diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system should not be Oregon’s safety net for persons suffering from the disease of addiction; and

WHEREAS, almost sixty percent of children in foster care have at least one parent with a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, a person who suffers from addiction often requires low-barrier housing to achieve the safety and stability necessary for recovery; and

WHEREAS, long-term employment can be difficult to sustain when an individual is in the throes of an addiction; and

WHEREAS, the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (hereafter, the Commission) was created to establish priorities and policies for alcohol and drug prevention and treatment as part of a strategic state plan to reduce addiction and alleviate its impacts; and
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WHEREAS, the Commission is able to work across state agencies to create the state’s strategic plan and ensure that state resources are being efficiently utilized on effective programs; and

WHEREAS, improved data collection and research are important components of the Commission’s work; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that all state agencies work with the Commission to ensure that they are able to implement a strategic plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. I find that for the reasons recited above it is necessary to declare Alcohol and Substance Abuse Addiction a Public Health Crisis in Oregon.

2. The Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Health Policy Board, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Youth Development Council, the Department of Housing and Community Services, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and the Department of Education (hereinafter, the Agencies) shall work with the Commission to create a Statewide Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Plan (hereinafter, the Plan), and shall provide resources as requested. The Plan shall include the recommendations required by Oregon Revised Statutes 430.242(2) and any other recommendations the Agencies and Commission deem critical to improving services for Oregonians struggling from addiction.

3. The Agencies shall provide a single point of contact who shall be empowered to respond to any inquiries of the Commission, and shall direct all employees to assist and respond when needed.

4. The Agencies shall enter into data-sharing agreements with the Commission to the extent legally permissible. If barriers to those agreements arise, the Agency will identify the barriers and work to overcome them to the extent practicable, for instance by exploring changes of policy or legislation.

5. With the support of the above-listed Agencies, the Commission shall:

   a. Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oregon Health Authority and other relevant agencies to ensure continued funding and support of the Commission for at least the remainder of the biennium no later than April 1, 2018.
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b. Submit to the Governor and Legislature preliminary recommendations no later than September 15, 2018.

c. Submit to the Governor’s Office a recommended budget (to include whether or not the Commission should change its funding structure) during the building of the Governor’s Recommended Budget for the 2019-2021 biennium.

d. Complete any Requests for Proposals to create the Plan no later than November 1, 2018.

e. No later than July 1, 2020, and July 1 of even-numbered years thereafter, submit a Statewide Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Plan to the Governor’s Office and Legislature.

f. Provide quarterly updates to the Governor’s Office regarding the status of the development of the Plan, and be prepared to make budgetary recommendations during the building of the Governor’s Recommended Budget for 2021-2023 biennium.

g. Provide updates as requested to any legislative committees.

6. This Executive Order will remain in effect until it is superseded by statute or another Executive Order, or upon the final presentation and adoption of the initial Statewide Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Plan.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this __th day of March, 2018.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Dennis Richardson
SECRETARY OF STATE