



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 2019-03**

**An order establishing the Statewide Oversight Commission on Mental Health Workforce  
Development**

**WHEREAS**, New Hampshire faces a shortage of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, along with high turnover rates; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately ten percent of clinical positions in New Hampshire's public mental health system were unfilled in April of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the distributions of clinical psychologists, social workers, and mental health counselors are uniquely sparse in New Hampshire compared to neighboring states; and

**WHEREAS**, low pay, large caseloads, demanding productivity expectations, excessive documentation, and limited opportunities for advancement are some of the factors that contribute to the mental health workforce shortage in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, several statewide initiatives are underway to address the mental health workforce shortage in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ten Year Mental Health Plan released in January of 2019 recommends the establishment of an oversight commission to coordinate existing mental health workforce initiatives and to develop a comprehensive statewide mental health workforce plan.'

**NOW THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR** of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. There is established the Statewide Oversight Commission on Mental Health Workforce Development. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

- a) The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or designee;
- b) The Commissioner of Business and Economic Affairs, or designee;
- c) The Commissioner of Employment Security; or designee;
- d) One state representative, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House;
- e) One state senator, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the President of the Senate;
- f) The Chancellor of the University System, or designee;
- g) The Chancellor of the Community College System; or designee; and
- h) Five additional members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. The Governor shall designate a member of the Commission to serve as chair.

3. The Commission shall serve as a statewide coordinator for all efforts to address the state's mental health workforce shortage and shall develop strategies to boost recruitment and retention of a mental health workforce for the state. To further this charge, the Commission's duties shall include, without limitation, the following:

- a) Fostering collaboration, coordination, and learning across existing mental health workforce initiatives;
- b) Evaluating potential student loan repayment programs that may serve to enhance efforts to attract and retain mental health workers;
- c) Reviewing licensure statutes and regulations governing mental health professions and identifying opportunities for easing or streamlining such requirements;
- d) Developing recommendations for professional development programs for mental health workers;
- e) Evaluating the feasibility of the establishment of a centralized training and technical assistance center to aid in training mental health workers in the state; and
- f) Identifying policy changes that may promote enhanced compensation for mental health workers in the state;
- g) any other duties or activities which may further the Commission's charge.

4. The Commission shall meet at least monthly, and shall, beginning in the year 2019, submit to the Governor on or before November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, a report which summarizes the Commission's activities and which details any recommendations that the Commission develops.

5. In between annual reports, the Commission shall provide recommendations to the Governor as the Commission deems appropriate and as the Governor may request.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 12th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and nineteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-three.



**GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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<sup>i</sup> The background and statistics in the whereas clauses of this Order are taken directly from the State's Ten Year Mental Health Plan released in January of 2019.