EXECUTIVE ORDER

THE STATE OF TEXAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS
EXECUTIVE ORDER
GWB 99-2

Relating to Community-Based Alternatives for People with Disabilities

WHEREAS, The State of Texas is committed to providing community-based alternatives for people with disabilities and recognizes that such services advance the best interests of all Texans; and

WHEREAS, Texas seeks to ensure that Texas' community-based programs effectively foster independence and acceptance of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, programs such as Community Based Alternatives and Home and Community Services provide the opportunity for people to live productive lives in their home communities; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I have been a consistent advocate for increasing funds to expand community-based services for the elderly and people with disabilities and, working with the Legislature, have increased funding for such programs by more than $1.7 billion, a 72 percent increase, since taking office; and

WHEREAS, the 76th Legislature has provided funding to allow an additional 15,000 Texans to live outside of institutional settings through our Medicaid waiver and non-waiver community services; and

WHEREAS, Texas must build upon its success and undertake a broader review of our programs for people with disabilities and ensure services offered are in the most appropriate setting;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, by virtue of the power vested in me, do hereby order the following directives:

1. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) shall conduct a comprehensive review of all services and support systems available to people with disabilities in Texas. This review shall analyze the availability, application, and efficacy of existing community-based alternatives for people with disabilities. The review shall focus on identifying affected populations, improving the flow of information about supports in the community, and removing barriers that impede opportunities for community placement. The review shall examine these issues in light of the recent United States Supreme Court decision in Olmstead v. Zimring.

2. HHSC shall ensure the involvement of consumers, advocates, providers and relevant agency representatives in this review.

3. HHSC shall submit a comprehensive written report of its findings to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the appropriate committees of the 77th Legislature no later than January 9, 2001. The report will include specific recommendations on how Texas can improve its community-based programs for people with disabilities by legislative or administrative action.

4. All affected agencies and other public entities shall cooperate fully with HHSC's research, analysis, and production of the report. This report should be made available electronically.
5. As opportunities for system improvements are identified, HHSC shall use its statutory authority to effect appropriate changes.

Given under my hand this the 20th day of September, 1999.

GEORGE W. BUSH
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:  
ELTON BOMER  
Secretary of State

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