

State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY
GOVERNOR

April 17, 2014

EXECUTIVE ORDER 49

GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBER AND THIER FAMILIES

WHEREAS, supporting those North Carolina citizens who have served or are serving their country and state in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves and National Guard and their families is among the highest priorities of government; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to nearly 800,000 veterans and the third largest active military force in the nation with nearly 120,000 active duty personnel and another 12,000 members of the North Carolina National Guard; and

WHEREAS, these veterans, service members, their families, and their communities have shouldered a heavy burden exemplified by the repeated combat deployments for their nation in the War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, meeting the needs of service members and their families is not the sole responsibility of one agency or entity, but a collective responsibility of the entire state and nation that requires a high level of collaboration and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, it is my expectation that interagency cooperation be taken beyond the existing efforts to a new level of performance and accountability and that barriers are eliminated that may limit or lessen the effectiveness of Federal, State and Local entities that serve our veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Established

The Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and their Families (hereinafter the "Working Group") is hereby established.

The Working Group is charged with developing interagency solutions to make North Carolina a more veteran friendly state. The Working Group will achieve the goal of "making North Carolina the state of choice for veterans" by facilitating a heightened level of collaboration and coordination within the system of care to effectively and responsively meet the needs of veterans, service members, and their families.

In performing these duties, the Working Group shall conduct regular meetings to raise awareness of the veteran-related efforts of all participating agencies and organizations in order to facilitate information sharing, joint planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities among federal, state, and local organizations and agencies.

The Working Group will build upon the gains of previous interagency efforts such as the “Governor’s Focus on Service Members, Veterans and their Families” by expanding the scope beyond the realm of behavioral and physical wellness into all the territories in which the veteran interacts with the state and his or her community such as employment, job training, education, licensure transferability, personal finance, home ownership, legal services, recreation, etc.

Section 2. Membership

All members of the Working Group shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Working Group shall be comprised of up to 35 members appointed by the Governor from state agencies and private interests that are in frequent contact with veterans and that operate programs to support veterans, service members and their families.

All members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. A vacancy occurring during a term of appointment shall be filled by the Governor for the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 3. Leadership Team

The Governor shall appoint a Leadership Team to direct the activities of the Working Group. The Leadership Team shall be composed of a chair and four (4) vice-chairs appointed by the Governor and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The Leadership Team shall be composed of the following persons:

- a. The Governor’s Military Affairs Advisor, shall serve as chair;
- b. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, shall serve as a vice-chair;
- c. The Secretary of the Department of Administration, or his designee, shall serve as a vice-chair;
- d. The Secretary of Commerce, or her designee, shall serve as a vice-chair;
- e. A representative from outside of State government who has exhibited a history and passion for veteran’s issues, shall serve as a vice-chair.

Section 4. Meetings

Meetings shall be held quarterly or upon the call of the Governor or the chair. Meetings of the Working Group shall address the following issues:

Transition, Integration, and Social Support: (1) education, (2) employment, (3) housing, (4) family, (5) recreation, (6) financial management, and (7) legal/criminal justice;

Wellness Issues: (1) physical and behavioral health (including Post Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, substance abuse, combat and operational stress injury) and (2) spiritual wellness (including faith, grief and moral injury); and

Military Service and Benefits: (1) Active Duty, (2) members of Reserve Units, (3) National Guard, (4) Unit Associations, (5) Family Readiness Groups, and (6) Veteran Service Officers and Service Organizations.

Section 5. Duties

- a. The Working Group shall advise the Governor on issues related to veterans, service members and their families.
- b. The Working Group shall identify areas for better inter- and intra- agency cooperation and implement those ideas in accordance with their capabilities.

- c. The Working Group may convene cross-functional groups of representatives from various branches and eras of the Active, Reserve and Guard components and their families as well as the Veteran Service Organizations that operate at the federal state and local level to elicit information which aids the Working Group in its mission.
- d. The Working Group shall submit an annual statement to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of the Department of Administration, and the Department of Commerce by November 1, on its recommendations.
- e. The Working Group will hold an annual Veterans Day Summit (to be held annually November) in which key stakeholders will present their progress to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of the Department of Administration and the Secretary of Commerce.

Section 7. Administration

The Department of Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services shall provide administrative and staff support services required by the Working Group. The Governor's Office and remaining cabinet agencies may provide staff support as needed. Member costs will be borne by the participating individuals and/or their sponsoring agencies.

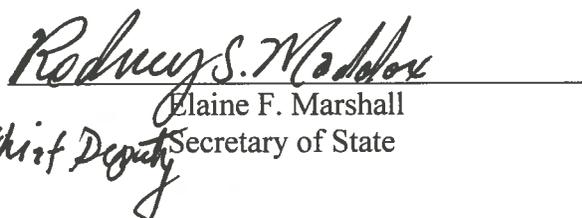
Section 8. Effect and Duration

This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2017, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2(b).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eight.


Pat McCrory
Governor

ATTEST:


Elaine F. Marshall
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

