



OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 06 FY 08/09
DATE September 14, 2007

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EXPANDING
ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR MAINE PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, oral health is essential to the general health and well-being of all Maine people; and

WHEREAS, access to oral health care services and programs should be available to Maine people; and

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage and maldistribution of oral health care professionals in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, Maine's most vulnerable citizens do not have equal opportunity to access oral health care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Elias Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Governor's Taskforce to Expand Access to Oral Health Care for the Benefit of Maine Citizens (hereinafter "Task Force").

Purpose

The purpose of the Task Force is to develop recommendations for short-term and long-term solutions to expand access to high quality oral health care programs for all Maine citizens, particularly children, the elderly, the underinsured and the uninsured. The Task Force must identify existing barriers to access and provide recommendations for removing those barriers and for expanding access to adequate oral health care for Maine citizens.

1. The Task Force shall review relevant data and information on the status of oral health in Maine, as well as national studies on access to oral health care. The Task Force shall define a multi-year systems development approach to improving oral healthcare infrastructure, access to dental services and oral health status in Maine.
2. It shall consult with public and private individuals and organizations that provide medical and oral health care currently for the purpose of building upon existing relationships and partnerships.
3. It shall develop and recommend short-term and long-term solutions to expand the oral health care provider workforce; provide more comprehensive public awareness and education programs; evaluate and improve oral healthcare delivery systems; and increase funding of and reimbursement for oral health care services.

Membership

The Governor shall appoint up to 16 members to the Task Force, who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

- The Commissioner of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation or a designee who shall serve as Chair;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services or a designee;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Education or a designee;
- A representative of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance;
- Two members shall be public members not associated with a formal organization but who have an interest in oral health;
- A representative of a dental insurance company;
- A representative of the Maine Board of Dental Examiners;
- One member shall be a graduate level educator specializing in oral health education; and
- Seven (7) members shall represent the following organizations respectively--Maine Dental Association, Maine Society of Denturists, Maine Dental Hygienists Association, Maine Primary Care Association, Maine Medical Association, Maine Equal Justice Partners, and Maine Dental Access Coalition.

The President of the Senate may appoint two members of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House may appoint two members of the House of Representatives to serve. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

The Chair will schedule, set the agenda for, and preside at Task Force meetings. All members shall serve without compensation.

Staff

The departments of state government named above shall provide appropriate staff to assist the Task Force.

Meetings

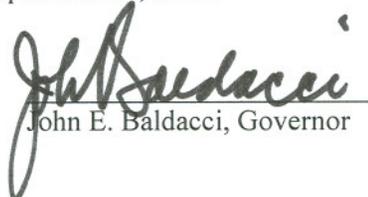
Public meetings in locations throughout the state will be scheduled and publicized, as needed.

Report

The Task Force shall submit a written report with recommendations to the Governor and the Joint Standing Committees on Business, Research and Economic Development and Health and Human Services no later than December 1, 2008, after which the Task Force shall dissolve.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is September 14, 2007.


John E. Baldacci, Governor