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EXECUTIVE ORDER

OFFICE OF THE COLORADO BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order establishing the Governor's Office of the Colorado Benefits Management System.

1. Background and Need

The Colorado Benefits Management System ("CBMS") is a state-of-the-art eligibility and payment system for issuing benefits to clients across Colorado for a variety of social service programs administered by counties and select medical assistance sites. The Colorado Department of Human Services ("CDHS") and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing ("HCPF") began developing CBMS in 1995 after receiving approval from the Colorado General Assembly and federal agencies.

Increasingly complex programs and regulations drove the need for CBMS amid concerns that Colorado could no longer rely upon outdated technology and inconsistent methods of determining eligibility to state and federal programs.

CBMS replaced six existing computer systems with one unified system for collecting data, establishing eligibility, and processing payments. CBMS was envisioned to improve access to public assistance and medical benefits by integrating the functions of the existing automated systems, providing one-stop shopping for clients, permitting faster eligibility determinations, and providing increased accuracy and consistency in eligibility determinations and benefit calculations statewide.

CBMS is a joint state and local government project that provides a single automated system to support benefits issuance and reporting for 36 public assistance programs. These programs annually distribute over \$2 billion in benefits, processing over 380,000 cases.

While most components of CBMS are functioning correctly, there are some remaining operating problems that must be resolved. In March 2005, I decided to obtain a third party independent verification and validation of the system in order to address remaining problems. Deloitte Consulting recently completed the independent review and provided recommendations for improving the operation and efficiency of CMBS. The number one recommendation was to establish a single executive branch entity to oversee the system. I am implementing this regulation by the establishment of this Office of the Colorado Benefits Management System ("CBMS Office"), and empowering the CBMS Office to review and, if appropriate, implement the remaining recommendations from Deloitte, and to have continuous oversight of the management and operations of CBMS.

2. Mission and Scope

The CBMS Office shall be accountable for the overall control of CBMS from a direction, planning, management, and delivery perspective. It shall provide common oversight and coordination of the state management of CBMS.

The Director of the CBMS Office will be an employee of the Office of the Governor and will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

3. Directive

The Governor's Office of the Colorado Benefits Management System is hereby established. CDHS and HCPF shall provide staff assistance as needed to facilitate the transition of functions from those state agencies to the CBMS Office.

4. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until further modification or rescission by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State
of Colorado, this 27th
day of May, 2005.

Bill Owens
Governor