

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
(303) 866 - 2471  
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

**B 003 08**

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### **Commissioning the Collaborative Scopes of Care Study and Creating an Advisory Committee**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order commissioning the Collaborative Scopes of Care Study and creating the Collaborative Scopes of Care Advisory Committee (the "Advisory Committee").

#### I. Background and Need

The health care system in Colorado involves a complex interface between individuals, patients, facilities, insurers, state policy and health care providers. One important aspect of the system is the availability of qualified health care professionals to provide appropriate, high quality care to the appropriate patient in the appropriate setting. It is clear from health manpower studies that we do not have sufficient numbers of providers, especially physicians and dentists, to meet the current needs of Coloradans. This problem is especially acute in rural and other underserved communities, where many individuals simply have no access to health care regardless of whether they are insured or can otherwise afford care. In addition, the threat of the next influenza pandemic, while marked by uncertainty in terms of when it will occur or with what severity, has highlighted the current inadequate health care workforce by revealing how meager our available medical provider surge capacity is, compared to what we would require in order to respond and mitigate the impact of a pandemic. Finally, it is apparent from the experience of other states that have negotiated local health care reform, that expansion of access is met with insufficient numbers of professionals to provide care for the newly covered individuals.

One approach currently being evaluated and adopted in other states has been to carefully examine the potential collaborative roles of other health care providers, including advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and dental hygienists in meeting the medical and dental needs in communities. There is a rich research literature comparing the health outcomes from nurses and hygienists that indicates there are systems and settings where high quality care with good health outcomes can be provided to patients by non-physician or non-dentist professionals.

A systematic review and synthesis of this research would be valuable to policy makers in evaluating regulatory policies that could be addressed to appropriately enhance the scope of practice for regulated health professionals in such a way to expand availability of care providers in the face of higher demand from either expanded access to care or public health emergencies while preserving and protecting high quality standards for care.

## II. Mission and Scope

The Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives shall commission a study involving the review and synthesis of the available research regarding expanded and collaborative scopes of practice for advance practice nurses, physician assistants, and dental hygienists. In initiating the study, the Governor's Office shall identify an appropriate research entity (the "research group") with documented skill, expertise, and experience in health services research and systematic evidence review and synthesis. The research group shall undertake a study of scopes of practice for advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and dental hygienists in terms of the services that are delivered, the settings in which those services are delivered, and the quality of care provided.

The Advisory Committee is created to provide guidance and advice to the research group and shall work in collaboration with the Department of Regulatory Agencies and the Department of Public Health and Environment. Moreover, the Advisory Committee shall:

- A. Advise the research group on the study workplan, analytic framework, literature search, evidence evaluation, and evidence synthesis for the study.
- B. Work with the research group on creating a final study report for distribution to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report shall be delivered no later than December 31, 2008.

## III. Membership

The Advisory Committee shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

- A. The State Chief Medical Officer, who shall serve as the Advisory Committee Chair.
- B. Four physicians who hold unrestricted active Colorado medical licenses. One of these physicians shall practice as an anesthesiologist, one as a family physician, one as a pediatrician, and one as an obstetrician/gynecologist.

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- C. Four advanced practice nurses (APN) who hold unrestricted active Colorado nursing licenses. One of these APNs shall practice in primary care, one shall practice in pediatrics, one shall be a certified nurse midwife, and one shall be a certified registered nurse anesthetist.
  - D. A registered nurse who holds an unrestricted active Colorado nursing license and who is not an APN.
  - E. A dentist who holds an unrestricted active Colorado dental license.
  - F. A dental hygienist who holds an unrestricted active Colorado dental hygienist license.

The Advisory Committee shall also have seven (7) non-voting, *ex-officio* members, serving at the pleasure of the Governor, appointed as follows:

- A. One Democratic and one Republican member of the Colorado Senate, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the President and Minority Leader of the Senate.
- B. One Democratic and one Republican member of the Colorado House of Representatives, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.
- C. The Executive Director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies or his designee.
- D. The Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing or her designee.
- E. A representative from the Governor's Office of Policy and Initiatives, appointed by the Governor.

#### IV. Staffing and Resources

The Office of the Governor, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, shall identify the research entity to undertake the study, identify and secure resources to fund the research study, and find resources to support the Advisory Committee. The Office of the Governor shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities, but only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses, including but not limited to the research study discussed above.

Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, but may, at the discretion of the Chair and upon the approval of the Office of the Governor, be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred.

V. Directive

The Collaborative Scopes of Care Study is hereby commissioned and the Collaborative Scopes of Care Advisory Committee is hereby created.

VI. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until January 31, 2009, at which time the Advisory Committee shall be dissolved.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this seventh day of  
February, 2008.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Ritter, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor