

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON THE
OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
WITHIN THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, drug abuse is on the rise, especially among young people, and alcoholism and substance abuse carry heavy costs for all Illinois residents; and

WHEREAS, there are costs and suffering associated with substance abuse resulting in child and domestic abuse, teen pregnancy, increased school dropout rates and community violence, and an inability to achieve self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, there is a cost to society from crime and the incarceration of criminals, short-term and long-term health care, on-going welfare services, losses in productivity and poor schooling that results in remedial education; and

WHEREAS, it is important to make substance abuse prevention and treatment a top priority for Illinois state government; and

WHEREAS, treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse has been shown to improve individuals' likelihood of becoming self-sufficient and that treatment services require a comprehensive, scientific approach to be effective; and

WHEREAS, ongoing substance abuse treatment is a critical step in assuring that Illinois meets its welfare reform goals and helps those former welfare recipients laboring under substance abuse problems make a successful transition to work; and

WHEREAS, the need for treatment programs for ex-offenders who are returned to society is increasing to ensure that a former inmate's transition back in to society is drug free; and

WHEREAS, prevention programs, especially those directed to young people, reduce and prevent involvement with alcohol and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Human Services has an established office dedicated to Alcoholism and Substance Abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has already begun the work of coordinating services among community providers, welfare recipients, ex-offenders, and persons with mental illness in the area of alcohol and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for the State of Illinois to promote and support services and programs to attack the issues of alcoholism and substance abuse.

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, hereby order the following:

1. The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse within the Illinois Department of Human Services shall report directly to the Secretary of that agency and shall provide periodic reports to the Governor .
2. The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse shall convene a summit of community-based substance abuse prevention and treatment providers who deal with young people to identify service and funding gaps in services and make recommendations to the Governor.
3. The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse is hereby designated as the lead agency for all substance abuse services for the State of Illinois and shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of state programs dealing with this critical problem and maximizing the effectiveness of new and existing resources available for this purpose in order to expand and increase the availability and effectiveness of accessible and appropriate community based treatment and prevention programs for the citizens of this state.

This Executive Order Number 9 (1999) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

March 16, 1999