STEPHEN MERRILL, GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 93 - 2

an order establishing a State Advisory Council on children with chronic illness and disability

- WHEREAS, this administration is committed to improving services to children and is working to improve access to family centered, community based services; and
- WHEREAS, the availability of primary care services is of particular importance to the health and well being of children, especially those with serious health challenges; and
- WHEREAS, services to these children and their families are often fragmented and require the collaboration of numerous state and local agencies to be effective; and
- WHEREAS, the formation of a standing advisory council composed of representatives from families, the legislature, state agencies, local communities, education, and medicine will assess the needs of these children and their families and develop the most cost effective means to serve them in their communities; and
- WHEREAS, a council's efforts can ultimately improve the viability and productivity of these families, avoid out of home placements and contribute to the children's well being by enhancing service delivery and improving utilization of existing resources;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN MERRILL, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby establish a multi-disciplinary State Advisory Council on Children with Chronic IIIness and Disability. The council's objectives will be:

to assess the needs of children with chronic illness and their families;

to effectively coordinate existing resources at state and local levels and to maximize opportunities for generating revenues to support these services;

to recommend public policy changes which will encourage the development of coordinated community systems and the use of natural supports in assisting these children and their families;

to support the "Partners in Health" pilot projects currently under development with support of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding, monitoring these efforts and disseminating knowledge gained to appropriate state and local agencies;

to report annually to this administration and legislative leadership on the progress made in serving these children in regular educational and medical environments and in supporting them in their own homes and communities.

The State Advisory Council on children with chronic illness and disability represents a significant first effort to provide coordinated, family-based services to children with serious health impairments.

