



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2018-01

An order initiating creation of one coordinated State operation for the provision of veterans services

WHEREAS, State Government has multiple operations and points of contact for the provision of veterans services; and

WHEREAS, veterans and their families will be best served by one coordinated State operation for the provision of veterans services; and

WHEREAS, RSA 110-B:2 provides that the Governor "shall be the commander-in-chief of the militia and is hereby authorized to issue regulations for the organization and government thereof," and

WHEREAS, RSA 115:4 directs the Director of the Office of Veterans Services ("OVS") to "create a statewide service delivery structure which assists veterans and family members in identifying eligibility for veterans' benefits, filing claims, coordinating benefits with other state and federal agencies, and reviewing claims decisions for appeals or waivers of unfavorable decisions" and to "develop and coordinate agency programs in conjunction with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as well as other federal, state, local, and private organizations;" and

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the Department of Health and Human Services' ("DHHS") Bureau of Community Based Military Programs is to "collaborate, coordinate, and communicate with military and civilian provider groups in the delivery of health care services to New Hampshire veterans, service members, and their families;" and

WHEREAS, I have determined, after consultation with the Adjutant General, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, the Veterans Council, and the Director of OVS, that the operations and services of OVS and the Bureau of Community Based Military Programs can and should, to the extent necessary and as permitted by law, be aligned to create one coordinated State operation for the provision of veterans services;

NOW, THEREFORE I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. The Adjutant General shall develop and execute a memorandum of understanding with OVS which shall:

- a) provide that all operations and services of the OVS shall be conducted in coordination with the Adjutant General's Department to the extent permitted by law;
- b) clearly specify staffing and personnel responsibilities for the provision of all coordinated veterans services;
- c) create a single point of contact for all veterans services provided by the State; and
- d) contain any other provisions necessary to facilitate the creation of one coordinated State operation for the provision of veterans services.

2. The memorandum of understanding contemplated in section 1 of this Order shall be developed and executed within 60 days of the date of this Order, and shall become effective upon the approval of the Adjutant General, the Director of OVS, the Veterans Council, and the Governor, and upon the receipt of any additional approvals required by law. The provisions of the memorandum of understanding contemplated in section 1 of this Order shall be fully implemented within 120 days of the date of this Order.

3. The Adjutant General shall develop and execute a memorandum of understanding with DHHS which shall:

- a) provide that all operations and services of the Bureau of Community Based Military Programs shall be conducted in coordination with the Adjutant General's Department to the extent permitted by law;
- b) clearly specify staffing and personnel responsibilities for the provision of all coordinated veterans services;
- c) create a single point of contact for all veterans services provided by the State; and
- d) contain any other provisions necessary to facilitate the creation of one coordinated State operation for the provision of veterans services.

4. The memorandum of understanding contemplated in section 3 of this Order shall be developed and executed within 60 days of the date of this Order, and shall become effective upon the approval of the Adjutant General, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, and the Governor, and upon the receipt of any additional approvals required by law. The provisions of the memorandum of understanding contemplated in section 3 of this Order shall be fully implemented within 120 days of the date of this Order.

5. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall assist the Adjutant General, the Director of OVS, and the Commissioner of DHHS, to the extent permitted by law, with (a) the co-location of the operations of the Adjutant General's Department, OVS, and the Bureau of Community Based Military Programs and (b) the transfer of personnel and creation of new positions, as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Order.

6. The Adjutant General, Director of OVS, Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, and any other necessary Executive Branch personnel shall take any and all other steps necessary and permitted by law to effectuate the directives and purposes of this Order, including seeking approval from the Governor and Council and the Fiscal Committee of the General Court where required by law.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 15th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-two.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE