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EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 002 -2006

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TERRITORIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS AND PROVIDING FOR THE COUNCIL'S PURPOSE, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7, Revised Constitution of American Samoa and ASCA Section 4.0302.

Section 2. Preamble

WHEREAS, an increasing and unacceptable number of American Samoa's citizens are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and

WHEREAS, the factors that contribute to homelessness are many and complex, including a lack of affordable housing, a shortage of family wage jobs, the presence of domestic violence, a shortage of special needs housing with support services, the problems of alcoholism, substance abuse and mental illness and the growing number of troubled youth; and

WHEREAS, the problem of homelessness denies a segment of our population their basic need for adequate shelter and support services; and

WHEREAS, private businesses, charitable organizations, villages, counties, the federal government, the Territory of American Samoa and private citizens are investing resources to assist people who are homeless and to prevent homelessness, recognizing that homelessness is a multifaceted problem requiring coordination of resources and efforts from the private sector and from all levels of government.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Togiola T.A. Tulafono, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby establish a Territorial Advisory Council on Homelessness as set forth below.

Section 3. Order

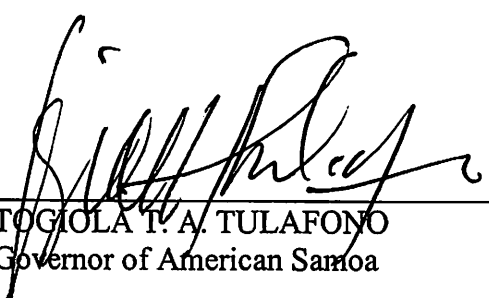
1. The Territorial Advisory Council on Homelessness is herewith created. The Council shall consist of not more than 25 members, appointed by the Governor, who represent private businesses, nonprofit organizations that provide services to homeless people, faith-based organizations, the local office of the Social Security Administration, youth, and at least one person who is, or has been, homeless.
 - a. Membership will include the directors of the departments of Commerce, Education, Health, Human Resources, Human & Social Services, and Public Safety; the Office of Samoan Affairs; the Territorial Agency on Aging; Criminal Justice Planning Agency; the Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled; the Development Bank of American Samoa; the LBJ Hospital Authority; the American Samoa Community College; and the Veterans' Affairs Office.
 - b. In addition, membership will include one member each from the American Samoa Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate President and the Speaker of the House shall each appoint one member to represent their respective house on the Council.
 - c. The members of the Council who do not represent government departments shall be appointed for four-year terms. The terms of eight initial appointees shall be for two years, and the terms of eight others shall be for three years.
2. The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the Council. A vice chair shall be selected by the Council from among the members. Members shall serve without compensation except for reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with Department of Treasury policies. Staffing to the Council shall be provided by the Department of Human and Social Services with assistance from members of the other government departments.
3. All agencies of the ASG shall cooperate with the Council and furnish it with such information as necessary to meet the responsibilities spelled out below.
4. The Council shall meet at least quarterly in a location agreed upon by the members and the Department of Human and Social Services.
5. The Council shall carry out the following responsibilities:
 - a. Serve as the single territorial-wide homelessness planning and policy development resource.
 - b. Develop a territorial 10-year plan to end homelessness with emphasis on chronic homelessness.
 - c. Articulate an implementation strategy for a successful 10-year plan.

- d. Recommend policy, regulatory, and resource changes needed to accomplish the mission.
- e. Make annual policy recommendations to the Governor on ways to enhance the territory's ability to respond to the needs of people who are homeless, who are at risk of becoming homeless, or who have been homeless.
- f. Ensure accountability and results in implementation strategies.
- g. Increase the awareness of homelessness issues at territorial government agencies and local organizations that provide services to people who are homeless, and promote training for employees to better serve people who are homeless, who are at risk of becoming homeless, or who have been homeless.
- h. Provide the opportunity for an integrated territorial agency approach regarding the issue of homelessness, and promote interagency cooperation in distributing public information to educate the general public about the needs of people who are homeless, and provide homeless people and service providers with current information about available resources.
- i. Promote the public will to end homelessness.

Section 4. Effective Date

This order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: January 27, 2006.



TOGIOLA T. A. TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

cc: Per Standard List