Executive Order 2008-01

Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services

WHEREAS, the mission of Child Protective Services ("CPS") is to help families by strengthening the ability of parents, guardians or custodians to provide safe and supportive care for their children, including critical access to services that promote safe and stable homes for children; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of Arizona families referred to CPS have substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, parental abuse of drugs and alcohol has a serious negative impact on the health, safety, and well-being of their children; and

WHEREAS, successful programs exist to provide substance abuse and recovery services to parents and caregivers, including Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. ("AFF"); and

WHEREAS, of the 4,366 clients served by AFF, 98 percent had no new substantiated CPS reports after enrollment; and

WHEREAS, every reasonable effort should be made to ensure appropriate and immediate substance abuse treatment for children and their parents involved in the CPS system to provide a safe and stable environment for children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. All Executive Branch agencies that administer substance abuse prevention and treatment funding shall give priority to families referred to CPS. These agencies shall maximize federal funds to the greatest extent possible before expending state funding.

2. All Executive Branch agencies that administer substance abuse prevention and treatment services shall submit a written report describing their actions taken pursuant to paragraph one (1) of this Executive Order to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership ("ASAP") by June 30th of each year, beginning June 30, 2008. ASAP shall compile the reports submitted to it and survey its members to assess actions taken pursuant to this Executive Order and shall provide a report thereon to the Governor by September 30, 2008.

3. The Department of Economic Security/Division for Children, Youth and Families shall establish a data collection mechanism to identify individuals involved with CPS who have substance abuse issues and refer them for substance abuse treatment services.

4. The Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health and all other Executive Branch agencies that administer substance abuse prevention and treatment funding, shall report to the Governor, by April 15, 2008, regarding their capacity to provide substance abuse treatment services to adults and youth statewide. This shall include a breakdown of residential, detoxification, specialty providers, stabilization, and outpatient care services by geographic area.

5. All Executive Branch agencies working with families involved with CPS shall implement protocols to assess substance abuse treatment needs and guidelines and to coordinate provision of services. The purpose of these protocols will be to streamline services and coordinate treatment among agencies and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 14 day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
SECRETARY OF STATE