

Executive Order No. 2014-22

WHEREAS, in November 2011, the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention classified prescription drug abuse as a national epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina State Inspector General published a report in May of 2013 entitled, "South Carolina Lacks a Statewide Drug Abuse Strategy," which illustrates that South Carolina is not immune from this epidemic, and in fact, South Carolina ranked 23rd highest per capita in both opioid painkiller prescriptions and in overdose deaths, with 225 prescription overdose deaths in 2011; and

WHEREAS, this epidemic has a significant financial and emotional impact on South Carolina families and a negative economic impact on the State, including rising healthcare costs for opioid use in pregnant women and drug-dependent infants and rising emergency room and rehabilitation costs, with an estimated 30 percent of South Carolina Medicaid recipients receiving an opioid prescription in 2010 at a cost of \$24 million; and

WHEREAS, the State Inspector General's report highlights five South Carolina state agencies with regulatory and enforcement roles in the prescription drug abuse issue and the lack of a comprehensive, proactive plan to combat the problem; and

WHEREAS, many state agencies have begun to address prescription drug abuse and are committed to protecting and improving the lives of South Carolinians.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the Governor's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council (the "Council") to develop a comprehensive State Plan to combat and prevent prescription drug abuse. The Council shall be composed of ten members to include a representative from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; South Carolina Board of Dentistry; South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners; South Carolina Board of Nursing; South Carolina Board of Pharmacy; a representative from a South Carolina Solicitor's Office; South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; and the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services.

I hereby direct the Council as follows:

1. The Council shall develop a comprehensive State Plan to proactively combat and prevent prescription drug abuse in South Carolina that incorporates all state and local agencies that have a regulatory, enforcement, or treatment role in this issue.

2. The Council shall invite participation from legislators, professional associations, other state agencies, and other entities as necessary to enhance the development and implementation of a comprehensive State Plan.

3. The Council shall integrate data from State and federal agencies, overdose death records, state narcotics units, and other sources as necessary to evaluate and identify the extent of prescription drug abuse in South Carolina.

4. The Council shall identify the extent of prescription drug abuse in South Carolina, shall track and report such data in the final State Plan, and shall continue to report such data at least annually to the Governor.

5. The Council shall assist and encourage local communities to engage existing community coalitions or to establish new coalitions at the local level, recognizing that prescription drug abuse is as much a local issue as a State issue.

6. The Council shall provide an Interim Report to the Governor and the State Inspector General on the status of the Council's work no later than May 30, 2014. The Council shall submit the final comprehensive State Plan to the Governor and the State Inspector General no later than October 1, 2014. The Council shall meet as frequently as necessary to meet the above deadlines.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 14th DAY OF MARCH,
2014.**

**NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor**