WHEREAS, Governor Steve Bullock recently released the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services’ new state health improvement plan entitled, “Big Sky. New Horizons. A Healthier Montana;” and

WHEREAS, the plan promotes the implementation of scientifically proven, evidence-based prevention strategies aimed at improving the health of Montanans; and

WHEREAS, it is well established that prevention is the most effective way to improve health and reduce health care costs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the successful implementation of the strategies promoted in this plan will improve the health status and quality of life of Montanans; and

WHEREAS, saving health care dollars and creating a common agenda for health improvement is essential to creating a strong and sustainable economy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Healthier Montana Task Force is to direct and oversee the implementation of the Governor’s plan for a healthier Montana, focusing on six health priority areas:

- preventing, identifying and managing chronic diseases;
- promoting the health of mothers, infants and children;
- preventing, identifying and controlling communicable disease;
- preventing injuries and reducing exposure to environmental health hazards;
- improving mental health and reducing substance abuse; and
- strengthening Montana’s public health and health care system.

COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. Task Force members will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. The Task Force will consist of no more than 20 members.
3. Members of the Task Force shall include but not be limited to representatives of:
   a. public health agencies;
   b. health care providers;
   c. hospitals and health care facilities;
   d. tribal health programs;
   e. mental health providers; and
   f. consumers.

4. Two non-voting ex-officio members representing the Governor’s office and the Department of Public Health and Human Services shall be appointed by the Governor.

5. The Task Force shall be administratively attached to the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

COMPENSATION & REIMBURSEMENT

Members shall be reimbursed and compensated according to MCA 2-15-122.

DURATION

The Task Force shall continue to exist for two years from the effective date, at which time either it expires or a Governor signs an Executive Order continuing the Task Force.

This Order is effective immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, by the authority vested in me by and under the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby establish the Governor’s Healthier Montana Task Force.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana, this 25th day of 2013.

STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTESTED:

LINDA McCULLOCH, Secretary of State