

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A
REGIONAL 2-1-1 SYSTEM FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has a long history of supporting the development of region-wide resources and sound regional responses to such issues as emergency response and social services; and

WHEREAS, prior COG actions have included the creation of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECPSM) and the National Capitol Region Emergency Preparedness Council to strengthen the region's communication and coordination in the event of a regional incident or emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated "2-1-1" as the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to information on and referral to health and human services; and

WHEREAS, three 2-1-1 plans are currently in development - one each for the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a multi-jurisdictional hotline for information and referrals to social services would connect are residents to existing services and strengthen the region's preparedness for an emergency; and

WHEREAS, a number of government officials and non-profit groups are working with planners from 2-1-1 initiatives in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to develop a seamless, comprehensive 2-1-1 system for the region that will match the public with essential services; and

WHEREAS, legislation introduced in the United States Congress (The Calling for 2-1-1 Act of 2003) seeks to increase access to 2-1-1 telephone services by authorizing a dedicated federal funding source to support 2-1-1 development nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Human Services Policy Committee endorsed the following action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

1. The COG jurisdictions are urged to support a regional 2-1-1 system that will provide area citizens with a broad range of referral services. Substance abuse and mental health services should be a critical component of this comprehensive referral system
2. The United States Congress is urged to pass H.R. 3111 and S. 1630, bills to facilitate the availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and for other purposes