



Early Childhood Advisory Council

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Alabama Department of CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS



Alabama's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)



A Guide to Understanding the Governor's Council

Established by Executive Order No. 53
October 25, 2010

The establishment and duties of the Early
Childhood Advisory Council required by
federal law are described in the
Reauthorization of Head Start Act of 2007.

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Dr. Marquita Davis, Commissioner

Lori Frazier, ECAC Project Manager



Early Childhood
Advisory Council

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) makes recommendations to the Governor and legislature, including proposed legislation on how to effectively create a high-quality, early childhood system in order to improve the outcomes of Alabama's children and families.



The Department of Children's Affairs was awarded \$1.96 million by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services September 2010 through a competitive grant process. Grant funds will be used for the development and implementation of the activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council to comply with federal law.

THE FACTS

CREATION OF ALABAMA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

IMPROVING HEAD START FOR SCHOOL READINESS ACT BECAME PUBLIC LAW 110-134 DECEMBER 12, 2007

- ◇ THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REAUTHORIZATION OF HEAD START IN PUBLIC LAW 110-(IMPROVING HEAD START FOR SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2007), REQUIRED STATES TO HAVE ADVISORY COUNCILS DEDICATED TO EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE ISSUES.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 53 SIGNED OCTOBER 25, 2010 ESTABLISHED THE ALABAMA EARLY CHILDHOOD AND CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

BRIEF SUMMARY— EXECUTIVE ORDER IN FULL LENGTH IS AVAILABLE WWW.CHILDREN.ALABAMA.GOV

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- ◇ THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS OR DESIGNEE SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL.
- ◇ THE GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION POLICY ADVISOR SERVES AS THE CO-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL.
- ◇ COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND NOT SERVING BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICIAL POSITION WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA WILL SERVE A TERM OF THREE YEARS, CAN BE REAPPOINTED, OR SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

OPERATIONS OF THE COUNCIL

- ◇ THE COUNCIL WILL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES A YEAR.
- ◇ THE COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT ANNUALLY.
- ◇ THE COUNCIL WILL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.
- ◇ THE COUNCIL WILL INVITE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO AT LEAST ONE MEETING EACH YEAR, WHERE LEGISLATORS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

POWERS AND DUTIES

The Council has the following powers and duties, consistent with federal law.

- ◇ CONDUCT PERIODIC NEEDS ASSESSMENTS CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO SCHOOL ENTRY;
- ◇ IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR, BARRIERS TO, COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERALLY FUNDED AND STATE FUNDED CHILD LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION SERVICES, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;
- ◇ DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING OVERALL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN EXISTING FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS;
- ◇ DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ALABAMA'S STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT PLANS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS;
- ◇ ASSESS THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2-YEAR AND 4-YEAR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALABAMA TOWARD SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, INCLUDING TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE IN PLACE ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND PRACTICE OR INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS TO SPEND TIME IN HEAD START OR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ;
- ◇ DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ALABAMA'S EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS AND UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP HIGH QUALITY COMPREHENSIVE EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS, AS APPROPRIATE.

MISSION STATEMENT

Building a comprehensive early childhood collaboration of systems by effectively integrating efforts and resources to improve the lives of Alabama's children and families.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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