
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SIMMONS
BOYD
TELL

FROM: RILEY

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF TANF FUNDS FOR CHILD CARE CERTIFICATES

DATE: 11/28/00

CC: FILE

Warren Yoder of the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative contacted me to request that the Governor's Office authorize the transfer TANF funds to the Office of Children and Youth's Child Care Development Funds (CCDF). According to Yoder, 20% of TANF funds have been transferred in prior years to CCDF. DHS then allocates these funds to Planning and Development Districts for child care certificates provided to low income parents. Yoder reported that the regular CCDF allocation, without the TANF transfer, cannot fund all certificates for a full year.

I asked Carol Burnett about Yoder's request yesterday after the Charlotte Early Childhood Team meeting. She said that Dr. Fletcher has requested the transfer, but that, to Burnett's knowledge, DHS hasn't received the Governor's approval for the transfer. Burnett has been told that the Governor told child care providers in the Delta last week during the One on One in Greenville that he has approved the transfer. Burnett said that the transfer would most likely enable the PDDs to continue to maintain the current level of certificates, although not the entire waiting list. **Burnett is meeting with child care providers in the Delta this Saturday morning and is then meeting with providers here in Jackson Saturday afternoon. She inquired as to if I could let her know of the status of the request by then because providers are concerned at the loss of business due to certificates not being funded and she is anticipating a lot of questions on this issue.** I also had a phone call from Yoder when I returned from my office as to the status.

Burnett also expressed concern over the PDDs' management of the certificate program. She said that the PDDs basically had free reign under the prior administration. PDDs are operating under new contracts with DHS as of October 1 of this year and these contracts require the PDDs to comply with DHS evaluations and surveys. Marty Wiseman of the Stennis Institute has contacted DHS and proposed doing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the certificate program. He is to have a formal proposal to DHS by this Friday, December 1.

Please advise me of what my answer to Yoder should be. Thanks!