
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NOTES ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM FOR 4:00 MEETING
DATE 1/5/01
CC: SIMMONS, TELL, SHEARER, FILE

Pursuant to our meeting Tuesday morning, I have prepared the following notes relative to each of the team's goals and have identified action relative to each goal that I think we could consider taking at little fiscal cost:

Children's Information Center (Goal 1): Current fiscal conditions do not lend themselves to this recommendation. The Early Childhood Services Interagency Advisory Council, with assistance from the Interagency Committee, is charged with collecting data and publishing data on the status of all programs and services for preschool children.

Child Care (Goal 2): Current fiscal conditions do not lend themselves to available funds for additional child care slots. We must remedy careless expenditures of one-time funding for on-going expenses (i.e, transferring TANF funds to fund child care slots).

Health care (Goal 3): We can take the following action:

- Division of Medicaid continues to monitor the State Plan to identify amendments to maximize efficiency and resources.
- We will continue the cooperative work of the Department of Human Services, the Division of Medicaid, and the Department of Finance and Administration, and other agencies that we might identify, to talk with working middle-class families who are eligible for CHIP.
- The Department of Mental Health's annual state plan includes services for children with serious emotional disturbances and family/consumer education.

Parent Resources (Goal 4): Again, we must operate within our fiscal resources.

"Controversial" Recommendations: This might not be the time to consider placing child care licensure and enforcement under DHS when some members of the Legislature are calling for DHS to be scaled down.

Dr. Cathy Grace, Lynne Masters (MDE), Roy Hart (Dpt of Health), Carol Burnett (DHS), Dr. Susan Buttross (UMMC) and George Penick (Foundation for Mid-South) are scheduled to attend this afternoon's 4:00 meeting.