
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE WITH BARKSDALE READING INSTITUTE
DATE: 10/2/2002
CC: MAYO

Per your request, this is an update on the status of the early childhood initiative with the Barksdale Reading Institute (BRI). As I conveyed in my September 6 memo to you on this matter, Edna Watts at DHS suggested to Claiborne Barksdale and Cathy Grace that federal funds could be used to match private funds at a 3:1 ratio if the private funds were run through the BRI so that they became state funds. Thus, we could utilize \$125,000 of private funds raised by Claiborne Barksdale to draw down \$375,000 of federal CCDF funds to obtain the \$500,000 needed for the project.

Since that time, the BRI has submitted all of the required paperwork to DHS for review and approval. Janice has signed off on the project. I just spoke to Edna Watts and she said that the paperwork is now in the Budget Division for final review to ensure that the initiative complies with all federal guidelines for use of the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF). She has a 9:30 meeting this morning with the Budget Division and she is going to check on the status of their review and then call me. I asked her when she expected to have a final decision and she said that she should have one by the end of the week.

Once everything is reviewed and finalized at DHS, we can start making plans to announce this initiative. We could have another big press event with you surrounded by Barksdale, Grace, Kagan (if possible), and early childhood providers/advocates. I think we need to go to a day care to make the announcement, rather than doing it in the capitol.

I'll let you know as soon as I hear anything from Edna at DHS. Thanks!