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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** MAYO  
SEWELL

**FROM:** RILEY

**SUBJECT:** 10/31/02 PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DHS/BARKSDALE READING INSTITUTE  
PARTNERSHIP FOR KAGAN STUDY

**DATE:** 10/28/2002

**CC:** FILE

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**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2002, at 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Galloway Methodist Daycare (??) (CALL SHARON BRIGGS AND  
CONFIRM IF WE CAN DO THERE.)

**Purpose:** To announce DHS's providing \$375,000 in Child Care Develop Funds to  
match \$125,000 from the Barksdale Reading Institute to fund a statewide  
18-month needs-assessment to evaluate the status of child care, cost of  
upgrading and potential funding sources. Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan of Yale  
University will conduct the study.

**Speakers:** Governor Musgrove (Talk about his commitment and our funding Dr.  
Kagan's work via the partnership with BRI)  
Claiborne Barksdale (662-236-5600) (Talk about impact of early quality  
care, BRI's pilot projects in West Point and Greenville, BRI's working  
with our office on this initiative, and the details of Dr. Kagan's work)

**Photo op:** Governor presenting big check for \$375,000 to BRI (???)

**Invitations:**

The following participated in March's press conference):

1. Cathy Grace, MSU Early Childhood Institute (Out of town 10/31/02, but Dr. Howard, the department chair might come; Grace will email you if Howard is coming)
2. Steve Renfroe of ChevronTexaco (228-938-4548)
3. Members of the MS Early Childhood Association (601-898-0396 office; Penny Barr is the president – 601-582-3295 home)
4. Edna Watts and/or Janice Broome-Brooks, DHS (Janice co-chairs the Early Childhood Advisory Committee with Dr. Johnson) (Edna 359-4528)

5. Tymple Lymberis of ETV's "Right from Birth" series (432-6259)
6. Jane Boykin of the Family Forum (355-4911)
7. Rep. Eloise Scott (662-844-4624 work in Tupelo)
8. Dr. Bonita Potter, MS Department of Education (9-3778)
9. Joe Fahner of the Department of Health's First Steps Program (576-7725)
10. Louise Davis of MSU's Cooperative Extension Services (662-325-3083)

The following legislators and educational reps should be invited

11. Senator Debbie Dawkins (228-452-3868 home)
12. Senator Gloria Williamson (601-656-5634 business)
13. Senator Alice Harden, Senate Education Chair (922-3426 home)
14. Representative Joe Warren, House Education Chair (601-797-4919 business)
15. Laura Beth Hebbler, Head Start Coordinator (housed at MDE) (9-5798)
16. Dr. Henry Johnson, State Superintendent (he has a strong interest in ECC) (9-3512)
17. Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director of SBCJC (432-6685, Denise Walley is his assistant)
18. Dr. Tom Layzell, Commissioner of Higher Learning (432-6623, Debbie Harris is his assistant)
19. Susan Womack, Jackson Parents for Public Schools (353-1335)
20. Laura Abramson-Prichard (constituent and Governor's rep on Early Childhood Advisory Committee, 713-0537 home)
21. Oletha Fitzgerald (355-1213) and Carol Burnett (228-669-4827) of the Low Income Childcare Initiative – **ASK THE GOVERNOR IF HE WANTS TO INVITE THEM.**

The following persons attended an early childhood meeting at the home of Jim and Sally Barksdale on October 7, 2002:

22. Jim and Sally Barksdale (Claiborne Barksdale is inviting)
23. John McCullough, BellSouth (961-2600, Gloria is his assistant)
24. Blake Wilson, MEC (969-0022)
25. Chancellor Khayat (662-915-7111, Sylvia is his assistant)
26. Governor William Winter (949-4800)
27. Mayor Susan Vincent, Laurel (601-428-6401)
28. Arvern Moore, Holly Springs Head Start (662-252-1582)
29. Representative Charlie Capps (662-843-5341 business)

(NOTE: Pete Johnson and Mike Moore were also present at the Barksdales.)

Stacy has some people interested in attending educational events, so please let her know the location of the press conference so that she can call them and invite them.

### **Governor's talking points**

- Many of these same people joined me on March 12 to announce that early childhood education would be a priority for my administration (LAM/JS – check wording from his March comments)
- We are here today to announce a partnership that will result in a needs assessment of our state being conducted that will provide us with a blueprint of implementing and funding early childhood education
- Higher education leadership summit in January 2002 recognized early childhood education and every child starting school ready to learn as a priority.
- Many existing early childhood initiatives – (LAM/JS – name some from the March press conference)
- However, no comprehensive plan for the funding and implementation of a universal early childhood education system.
- DHS is providing \$375,000 in child care development funds to the BRI to enlist the services of Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan to conduct an 18-month needs assessment that will evaluate the status of child care, the cost of upgrading childcare in MS, and potential funding sources
- Dr. Kagan is a senior research analyst at Yale University and is one of the nation's leading authorities on early childhood development. She was the principal author of the 2001 report entitled "Not by Chance: Creating an Early Care and Education System for America's Children" – this report offers potential long-term solutions for improving the quality of early care and education
- Governor sent letter on 2/28/02 inviting Dr. Kagan to work with us in establishing universal funding for an early childhood care and education system
- Dr. Kagan has conducted similar work in Ohio and she is currently working with the states of Illinois and South Carolina.
- Dr. Kagan and Richard Brandon of the University of Washington's Human Services Policy Center will serve as Co-Directors of this project. MSU's Early Childhood Institute will provide support services for Dr. Kagan and Mr. Brandon.
- Dr. Kagan will assess what child care services exists, what funds (federal and state) would be available to support an enhanced child care system and she will also gauge (via focus groups) what the public wants as far as child care. When her work is finished, she will basically give us a menu of programmatic options of what we can do to improve early care, the cost of each option and possible resources for funding each option.

- Barksdales committed \$100 million three years ago to create the BRI to give teachers the tools to help at-risk elementary students learn to read on their grade level. They are now expanding their focus to include the impact of early care on children being prepared to start kindergarten and first grade ready to learn.
- Thanks to Claiborne Barksdale of BRI and Dr. Cathy Grace of MSU's Early Childhood Institute for their work on this initiative
- Thanks to the MS Early Childhood Association for providing funding to offset local costs, such as the focus groups.
- This exemplifies partnerships that are working together to improve Mississippi and the future of our children
- (Recognize Claiborne Barksdale to discuss importance of quality early care and details regarding the needs assessment and blueprint.)