
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE: STRONG POTENTIAL FOR FUNDING OF DR. KAGAN'S WORK
DATE: 9/6/2002
CC: RENICK, BOYD, MAYO, TELL

As you know, you wrote a letter to Dr. Lynn Kagan of Yale University inviting her to work in Mississippi state in developing a viable system of early care and education, including universal funding for early childhood care and education. This letter was a result of your meetings with Claiborne Barksdale, Dr. Cathy Grace and Steve Renfro. We have been awaiting cost estimates from Dr. Kagan and a source of revenue for her work.

Dr. Cathy Grace phoned me Wednesday and said that Dr. Kagan has said that she could start work in November if we had the \$500,000 that the project will cost. Dr. Grace also said that in conversations with Edna Watts at DHS, Edna suggested to both Dr. Grace and Claiborne Barksdale that federal funds could be used to match private funds at a 3:1 ratio if the private funds were donated to a state agency so that they became state funds.

I spoke to Edna this morning and she confirmed this. She said that federal Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) could be used. She said that she suggested that the private funds be run through an institution of higher learning, possibly Ole Miss because of the Barksdale Institute or MSU's Early Childhood Institute. Edna warned me that Janice has not approved of this yet. Edna has spoken to someone in the Atlanta HHS office and that person said that the process sounds fine if Janice approves of the use of funds. Edna and Dr. Grace are to meet this afternoon and review budget numbers and the project proposal.

So, if Janice and the federal government both approve, 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.

I provided Edna with some background as to your meetings with Grace and Barksdale, our press conference last spring announcing our early childhood initiative, and your writing the letter to Dr. Kagan. Edna is to keep me posted as to developments.