

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2011-15

ESTABLISHING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL

WHEREAS, early childhood development is directly related to economic development because it improves the quality of the future workforce and creates tremendous cost savings for society; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of early childhood development has had a positive impact on Idaho families and children; and

WHEREAS, through these initiatives, children are healthier and better prepared to enter Idaho's school systems; and

WHEREAS, greater coordination will allow for a more accurate inventory of existing services, programs and initiatives along with an increased understanding of the services available for families and children; and

WHEREAS, the coordination of early childhood initiatives, both public and private, is a priority of the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of the Interagency Coordinating Council (Idaho Code Title 16, Chapter 1), and the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force (Executive Order No. 2004-01) and the Head Start State Advisory Council (2008) will establish greater coordination, communication, and efficiency of early childhood services and initiatives of the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of families and children in Idaho to build a sustainable infrastructure for early childhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho do hereby order the creation of the "Early Childhood Coordinating Council" (Council) within the Office of the Governor.

- 1. The Council shall be designated as the state early childhood council and responsible for developing a sustainable and coordinated statewide-plan. This plan will achieve mutually defined goals for early childhood with evidence-based outcomes and approval and support from stakeholders, as well as the Governor, and will:*
 - a. Facilitate the activities of the Council, which will establish an ongoing communication network between state agencies, policymakers, families, stakeholders and communities for the purpose of planning and implementing a coordinated system of early childhood in Idaho;*
 - b. Develop multiagency state partnerships among critical stakeholders;*
 - c. Compile resources and identify information on the current best practices in early childhood systems building;*
 - d. Provide a comprehensive statewide mapping of existing early childhood programs and resources, as well as existing gaps, every three to five years;*
 - e. Align data from multiple systems to follow indicators of well-being for young children and their families.*
 - f. Support partnerships to align current initiatives in support of a comprehensive system of early childhood professional development;*
 - g. Increase public awareness of quality early childhood programs as a critical part of the foundation to promote healthy families and communities; and*

5. *The Council shall assure nationally acceptable standards are used statewide for the coordination and provision of early childhood programs and services.*
6. *The Council shall build and support partnerships that will maximize the use of funding streams and close the gaps in early childhood systems.*
7. *The Council shall offset staffing and operating expenses from any funding it receives.*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 8th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-second.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE