



Executive Order 2011-12
CONTINUING THE NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Section 642(b)(1)(A) of the reauthorized Head Start Act requires the Governor of each state to designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, serving children from birth to school entry.

WHEREAS, the most rapid brain development in people occurs from birth to three years and research demonstrates that children's experiences during the first five years of life have profound effects on their entire lives, including their eventual success or failure in school.

WHEREAS, preparing for school entry is a process that begins at the moment of birth and includes infancy, the toddler years, preschool and the transition into elementary school.

WHEREAS, high-quality early learning programs have immediate positive effects on IQ and achievement and long-term positive effects on school completion.

WHEREAS, children ages birth through five number 240,000 in Nevada and account for 9 percent of the total population in Nevada.

WHEREAS, a 2011 report by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, in collaboration with The Children's Cabinet, indicates that the early care and education (ECE) sector in Nevada has the capacity to serve only approximately 36% of children from birth through age five who need ECE.

WHEREAS, as of 2011, only 9% of eligible children in Nevada are being served by Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council ("Council") was created by Executive Order on September 11, 2009 and will cease to exist on July 31, 2011 by the terms of the Executive Order.

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services submitted a report on June 20, 2011 recommending that the Council be continued by Executive Order.

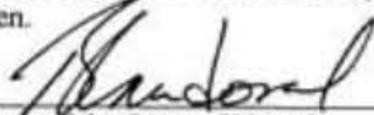
WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides that, "The Supreme Executive Power of this State shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, I hereby continue the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Council shall perform the following duties:

1. Work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs in the state.
2. Conduct periodic statewide needs assessments on the quality and availability of programs and services for children from birth to school entry and identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination and collaboration among existing federal and state-funded early childhood programs.
3. Develop recommendations for: (1) increasing overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations; (2) the establishment or improvement of core elements of the state early childhood system, such as a statewide unified data collection system; (3) statewide professional development and training for early childhood educators; and (4) high-quality state early learning standards.
4. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education in the state toward supporting the development of early childhood educators.
5. Provide state leadership and coordination of the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge discretionary grant application and ensure its timely submission. The completed Nevada Race to the Top application shall be submitted to the Governor at least one week before the application deadline.

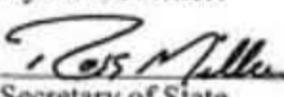
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services shall appoint the members to serve on the Council. On or before July 1, 2013, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall report to the Governor on the Early Childhood Advisory Council activities and recommend whether the Council should continue as an independent Council, be disbanded or be combined with another advisory group. All meetings are subject to NRS 241, the Open Meeting Law. The Council shall cease to exist on July 31, 2013 should it not be continued by Executive Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this fourteenth day of July, in the year two thousand eleven.

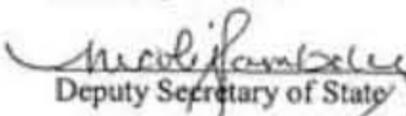


Auditor

By the Governor:



Secretary of State



Deputy Secretary of State

