Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council

Zoom Meeting April 3, 2020

COORDINATED AND STAFFED BY THE
IDAHOU ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN
EXECUTIVE ORDER
No. 2019-14

ESTABLISHING THE IDAHO EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the long-term academic success of children is dependent on third grade reading proficiency, with a foundation built on the language and literacy experiences of children from birth to age five; and

WHEREAS, the deliberate coordination of Idaho’s public and private early childhood services will allow for greater efficiency, expanded parental choice, and allow for a more accurate inventory of existing services, programs and initiatives for use by families and policymakers; and

WHEREAS, early childhood development is directly linked to economic development because it improves the quality of the future workforce and has been shown to create cost savings to taxpayers; reducing the need for educational remediation and diminishing social service and other government service utilization; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s quality of life and long-term economic prosperity depend on a workforce; and

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-377)(b)(1)), requires the governor of each state to designate or establish a State Early Childhood Education and Care ("State Advisory Council") as part of a process to ensure coordination and collaboration within the states; and

WHEREAS, the governor is further required to designate an individual to coordinating the activities of the State Advisory Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby establish the Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council (IDECAC), and in so doing,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
State of Idaho

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-14
ESTABLISHING THE IDAHO EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the long-term academic success of children is dependent on third grade reading proficiency, with a foundation built on the language and literacy experiences of children from birth to age five; and

WHEREAS, the deliberate coordination of Idaho’s public and private early childhood services will allow for greater efficiency, expanded parental choice, and allow for a more accurate inventory of existing services, programs and initiatives for use by families and policymakers; and

WHEREAS, early childhood development is directly linked to economic development because it improves the quality of the future workforce and has been shown to create cost savings to taxpayers; reducing the need for educational remediation and diminishing social service and other government service utilization; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s quality of life and long-term economic prosperity depend on a workforce; and

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-377)(b)(1)), requires the governor of each state to designate or establish a State Early Childhood Education and Care ("State Advisory Council") as part of a process to ensure coordination and collaboration within the states; and

WHEREAS, the governor is further required to designate an individual to coordinating the activities of the State Advisory Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby establish the Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council (IDECAC), and in so doing,
Whereas …

• The long-term academic success of children is dependent on third grade reading proficiency, with a foundation built on the language and literacy experiences of children from birth to age five;

• The deliberate coordination of Idaho’s public and private early childhood services will allow for greater efficiency, expanded parental choice, and a more accurate inventory of existing services, programs, and initiatives for use by families and policy makers;

• Early childhood development is directly linked to economic development because it improves the quality of the future workforce and has been shown to create cost savings to taxpayers by reducing the need for educational remediation and diminishing social services and other government service utilization;

• Idaho’s quality of life and long-term economic prosperity depend on a well-educated workforce;

• The federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, requires the governor of each state to designate or establish a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care as part of a parallel federal effort to ensure coordination and collaboration within the states;

• The governor is further required to designate an individual charged with coordination the activities of the State Advisory Council;

Now, therefore, I, Brad Little, 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 creation of the Idaho Early Childhood Advisory Council.
The ECAC shall ...

- **Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment** concerning the quality and availability of early childhood and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the state;

- **Identify opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination** among federally funded and state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering such programs;

- **Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children** in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

- **Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system** for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the state; develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the state;

- **Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education** in the state toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program;

- **Make recommendations for improvements** in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate;

- Carry out other responsibilities as designated by the Governor

ECAC’s first report shall be submitted to the Governor no later than December 31, 2020.
Members, Ex-officio Chair, and Bylaws

ECAC’s members shall be appointed by the Governor, with activities to be coordinated and staffed by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, whose executive director shall serve as the ex-officio chair.

• The Council shall develop and adopt bylaws governing its operation and may accept funds from private, federal, state or public agencies and any other sources in accordance with state law. The funds shall be used to support statewide efforts in development and sustainability of this council and early childhood programs and services.
A Message from Child Trends President Carol Emig
March 30, 2020

• In a few short weeks, the COVID-19 virus has dramatically changed the lives of children and families. Parents are losing jobs, schools and early care and education programs are closed, and the social and community supports many of us rely on are sidelined.

• At the same time, our public systems, institutions, and programs are racing to adapt—to figure out how to fulfill their missions in ways that keep both their own staff and the families they serve safe and healthy.

• Many of these public systems and community-based programs serve children who are rarely in the public eye, yet their well-being depends in significant ways on public policies and public agencies at all levels of government.

• As our nation grapples with these unexpected and overwhelming challenges, my colleagues and I urge policymakers and the public to prioritize children and families who face unique obstacles during this crisis; and to recall that, for those in low-income families, there is the additional threat of devastating financial consequences.
Existing Services for Families in Idaho with Children Under the Age of 6 Years

• **Medical/Health Systems**: pediatric medical care, health department offices, WIC, early intervention services, home visiting, homelessness prevention, child abuse prevention, and more

• **Recreational Systems**: Parks and Rec programs, YMCA and similar organizations, community centers

• **Educational Systems**: community libraries, Head Start/Early Head Start, preschool programs, child care centers, family child care providers
Caring for Idaho’s Children and Families

Updates from ECAC members related to current needs and trends in systems serving families with young children.
**Activity One**

**Statewide Needs Assessment**

*University of Idaho McClure Center for Public Policy Research*

- Document Review
  - Administrative Data Analysis
  - Data Integration Analysis
  - Draft and Final Needs Assessment

**WSU Social and Economic Sciences Research Center**

- Statewide survey of families with children ages 5 and younger (where children are while parents are working)

**Danielle Horras Consulting, LLC**

- Town Hall Meetings
- Focus Groups
- Data Integration
- Draft/Final Needs Assessment with McClure Center

**GS Strategy Group** (advisory capacity)

- Stakeholder Surveys
  - Parents/Caregivers
  - Early Childhood Care and Education Providers
  - Community Partners/Service Providers

**Child Trends**

- Facilities Study
- Quality Rating and Improvement System Validation Study
- Telehealth Feasibility Study

**The Policy Equity Group**

- Higher Education Inventory

**Bipartisan Policy Center**

- Idaho’s Child Care Program Landscape / Child Care Deserts
Existing Data, Needs Assessments, and Strategic Plans related to Services and Resources for Children ages 5 and Younger

1. What data, needs assessments, and strategic plans currently exist in Idaho related to services and resources for families with children under the age of six years?

2. What additional data do we need?
Next Steps: ECAC and PDG B-5

1. **Develop bylaws** for ECAC – create subgroup

2. **Send suggested questions** for the surveys – what do ECAC members want to know?
   - **Family Survey**
     - Focus = where children under the age of 6 are when parents are working
   - **Stakeholder Survey**
     - Families/Caregivers of Children under the age of 6
     - Early Childhood Programs/Educators
     - Community Partners/Service Providers