



STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State  
Frankfort  
Kentucky

2009-154  
February 19, 2009

**RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky is committed to the educational success, health and welfare of its children; and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky has made substantial commitments to improving the provision of early childhood development and education services through the KIDS NOW programs funded through Kentucky's tobacco settlement proceeds, the KERA pre-school program, and several other initiatives aimed at improving child and maternal health, child development, and school readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that investment in high quality early childhood education results in later academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of child health programs and high quality educational opportunities are prerequisites to achieving more meaningful readiness for Kindergarten and ultimate success thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky's system of early childhood development and education should recognize, incorporate and value the continuing role of private child care providers and private early childhood education providers, both not-for-profit and for-profit; and further recognizes that the delivery of early childhood development and education services crosses the boundaries of several different government sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that a comprehensive review of the delivery of early childhood development and education services is appropriate to ensure a more effective use of the public's resources, greater collaboration among the wide variety of early childhood development and education providers, and an effective transition to Kindergarten:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth, and KRS 12.029, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

1. There is hereby created and established the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education ("Task Force") which shall be responsible for reviewing the delivery of early childhood development and education services in Kentucky and recommending improvements to the system to accomplish:
  - Greater collaboration among providers of services to young children
  - Quality at all levels from early childcare through kindergarten
  - Agreement on what constitutes school readiness



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- Reliance on accepted early learning standards and assessment
2. The Task Force will be attached to the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet for administrative purposes.
  3. The duties of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - a. Develop a unified vision for early childhood education and development incorporating all aspects of the early childhood, development and education systems.
    - b. 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.
    - c. Define “school readiness”.
    - d. Revalidate early childhood standards and identify ways to ensure they are widely understood and used effectively in the programming for high quality early care and pre-school programs and used across education, Head Start and child care.
    - e. Examine the STARS program for child care programs and recommend ways to enhance its effectiveness to promote improved quality of child care programs and to make it a more useful and effective tool for parents.
    - f. Analyze child assessment requirements and needs; re-examine the Kentucky recommended assessment tools and win broader understanding of and common acceptance by child care, pre-school programs and kindergartens.
    - g. Work with the Kentucky Department of Education to urge adoption of a model curriculum framework for the KERA pre-schools and to review kindergarten standards.
    - h. Identify ways to strengthen the role of the Community Early Childhood Councils.
    - i. Recommend a coherent system of state level management for the effective provision of early child development and education services for children ages birth to six.
  4. The co-chairs of the Task Force shall be: Secretaries Helen Mountjoy and Janie Miller.



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5. Non-state employee members shall be eligible to receive actual and reasonable travel expenses.
6. The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, the Personnel Cabinet and the Finance and Administration Cabinet shall take all steps necessary to implement the provisions of this Order.
7. I hereby appoint the following to serve as members of the Commission:

**Helen Mountjoy** (Co-Chair)  
Secretary  
Education and Workforce Dev. Cabinet  
500 Mero Street, 3rd Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Janie Miller** (Co-Chair)  
Secretary  
Cabinet for Health & Family Services  
275 E. Main St. 5WA  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**June Widman**, Executive Director  
Eastern KY Child Care Coalition  
1835 Big Hill Road  
Berea, KY 40403

**Rick Hulefeld**  
Children, Inc.  
1053 Madison Avenue  
Covington, KY 41011

**Bronwyn Garrett Hudson**  
2418 West Madison Street  
Louisville, KY 40211

**Aubrey Nehring**, Director  
Owensboro Head Start  
1800 W. Fourth Street, P.O. Box 20004  
Owensboro, KY 42304-0004

**Tracy Haddix**, President  
Head Start Association  
171 Center Street  
P.O. Box 90014  
Bowling Green, KY 42102

**Tommy Floyd**, Superintendent  
Madison County Board of Education  
550 South Keeneland  
P. O. Box 768  
Richmond, KY 40476

**Theresa Jensen**, Asst. Superintendent  
Jefferson Kentucky Schools  
VanHoose Education Center  
3332 Newburg Road  
P. O. Box 34020  
Louisville, KY 40232-4020

**Terry Tolan**, President  
United Way of Kentucky  
P. O. Box 4653  
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**Jamie Spugnardi**  
KY Department of Education  
Capital Plaza Tower, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Bill Scott**, Executive Director  
Kentucky School Board Association  
260 Democrat Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Chip Malley**  
Little Red School House  
705 Buttermilk Pike  
Crescent Springs, KY 41017

**Kathy Wilson**  
Playschool Child Care Center  
215 Moe Lane  
Elkton, KY 42220



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**Kevin Hable**  
Shakertown Roundtable  
1922 Strathmoor Blvd.  
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**Scott White**  
Morgan & Pottinger PSC  
133 West Short Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

**Cindy Heine**  
Prichard Committee  
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Lexington, KY 40588-1658

**Lacey McNary**  
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11001 Bluegrass Parkway, Suite 100  
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**Jo Robertson**  
Murray State University  
3203 AL  
Murray, KY 42071

**Jaesook Gilbert**  
Northern Kentucky University  
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Highland Heights, KY 41099

**Jessica Hiler**  
Deep Springs Elementary  
1919 Brynell Drive  
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**Dennis R. Chaney**  
Barren River Area Health Department  
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**Vicki Stayton**  
Western Kentucky University  
Special Instructional Programs  
Tate Page Hall 104  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**Sadiqa Reynolds**, Inspector General  
Cabinet for Health & Family Services  
275 East Main Street, 5E-B  
Frankfort, KY 40621

**Steve Davis, MD**  
Department for Public Health  
275 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Brigitte Ramsey**  
State Board Member  
601 Maple Avenue  
Falmouth, KY 41040

**Judith M. Jerald**  
108 Oak Street  
Brattleboro Vermont

Please issue Commissions to them.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

  
TREY GRAYSON  
Secretary of State