

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ____

WHEREAS, the stability and well being of a society is inseparable from its ability to raise children to become healthy, educated, and productive citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mississippi has faced myriad of challenges to families and children that are directly tied to economic and social indicators; and,

WHEREAS, Mississippi seeks to address the needs of its children and their families; and,

WHEREAS, children's policy should be developed based upon an assessment of the condition and needs of our state's children; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi must identify the means of creating, funding and operating a Children's Research Center to conduct multidisciplinary, integrative research to provide analysis and recommendations to policy makers for improving the quality of life of our children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby authorize and create the Mississippi Children's Research Center within the Institutions of Higher Learning.

I. PURPOSE

The Mississippi Children's Research Center shall gather data to assess the services for and needs of children in the State of Mississippi in order to assist policymakers in developing and strengthening the policies of the State of Mississippi to improve the quality of life for children in Mississippi.

II. FUNCTIONS

The Mississippi Children's Research Center shall have the following functions and duties:

1. Facilitate the exchange of information across agencies.
2. Establish a system that specifies the type of data, gathers and tracks it on programs serving children eight years and younger and their families for the purpose of evaluation and to inform agencies of duplication and gaps in programs during the annual planning process.
3. Facilitate/coordinate joint planning with the early childhood interagency coordinating council.
4. Assist in a mandated interagency collaboration effort that would result in the development of a children's budget.
5. Make the data collected and analyzed available to all participating agencies for planning and evaluation purposes

III. FUNDING

The Institutions of Higher Learning shall seek and identify grants to fund the operations of the Mississippi Children's Research Center.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson, May 31, 2001, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE