

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96910 U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2008- <u>03</u>

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING THE GUAM EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL FOR GUAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, there exists a need to establish an Early Learning Council to support the coordination and collaboration of agencies and organizations, both public and private, serving young children birth to five, and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is scientifically established that positive social emotional, physical, language, intellectual, and spiritual/moral experiences for young children, most especially between neonatal to five years of age, are necessary and critical for promoting and nurturing the overall developmental needs of a child; and

WHEREAS, research on brain development has clearly indicated that the first years of life are particularly critical to a child's healthy development, readiness to enter school, read at grade level, graduate from high school and succeed; and

WHEREAS, there is strong, scientific evidence that quality health care and education services during neonatal to five years of age has a direct impact on economic development, saving communities money by preventing future expenses for remedial education, incarceration, and cash assistance; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for providing quality health care and education services has traditionally been the responsibility of organizations at the state/local level requiring definitive vision, clear mission, strong partnerships, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, programs that address the early health care and education of Guam's youngest children are fragmented, lack coordinated planning, overlap in some instances, leave substantive gaps in other instances; and

WHEREAS, programs providing early health care and education services should be coordinated and structured to maximize efficiency, simplify and expand accessibility to quality health care and educational programs, and provide a maximum return for Guam's taxpayers investments; and

WHEREAS, governmental programs must collaboratively develop and implement effective, efficient and coordinated service delivery to ensure that all of Guam's youngest children are given an equal opportunity to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, governance, which comprises traditions, institutions and processes that determine how power is exercised; how constituents are given a voice; how decisions are made on issues of mutual concern; and how quality and accountability are integrated, are vital components of any early childhood comprehensive system; and



WHEREAS, it is critical and beneficial to the territory of Guam's children that issues affecting their well being be considered at the highest level of the Island's Government; and

WHEREAS, Guam has established the VISION that "All of Guam's young children will have healthy minds, bodies, and spirits as the foundation for lifelong success." and the mission "to support each child (birth to 5) in reaching his/her full potential through a health care and education system that is accessible, comprehensive, integrated, and responsive to diverse cultures that is developed in collaboration with families and communities."; and

WHEREAS, Guam, through *Project Tinituhon*, has established five goals in support of this vision and mission as stated in the Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Guain, through *Project Tinituhon*, has begun the activities of the Implementation Plan for Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System, bringing together key child serving agencies, both public and private in health care and education to be more responsive to the evolving and complex needs of ALL children birth to five and their families; and

WHEREAS, the national legislation, P.L. 110-134 "Improving the Head Start Act of 2007" mandates the establishment of a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children birth to school entry and Guam Head Start Program is a vital and active participant of *Project Tinituhon*; and

WHEREAS, continued implementation and sustainability of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System to meet the goals for young children and their families requires strong support and commitment at all levels of the government and community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, FELIX P. CAMACHO, I Maga'lahen Guahan, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me, by the Organic Act of Guam as amended and the laws of Guam and entrusted to me by the people of Guam, do order the establishment of the *Guam Early Learning Council*, whose composition, goals and objectives, and roles and responsibilities for the efficient and effective delivery of services and supports to young children, birth to five, and their families, are as follows:

SECTION I. Composition of Council Membership.

- 1) Members representing key child serving agencies including government agencies (directors/agency heads) and private organizations, directly and indirectly involved in supporting the quality health care and education of children birth to five and their families, to develop a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective Early Childhood Comprehensive System:
 - a. Executive Director of Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) -Parents/families of young children, including those with disabilities;
 - b. Non-profit organizations providing services and supports to children, birth to five, and their families;
 - c. Private Child Care Providers (infants through preschool);
 - d. Guam Medical Society pediatricians and family practitioners;
 - e. Department of Public Health and Social Services Child Care Bureau, Child Welfare
 - f. Guam Public School System Head Start, Early Intervention: Part C, Preschool Special Education: Part B, Section 619



- g. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse;
- h. Guam Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center;
- i. University of Guam CEDDERS;
- j. Guam Community College Early childhood program
- k. Guam Memorial Hospital; and
- 1. Guam Legislative Chairs, including but not limited to, committees on Health, Education, and Human Services.
- 2) Co-chairmanship of the Council will be shared between the First Lady of Guam and Project Director of *Project Tinituhon*, Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System.

SECTION II. Goals and Objectives of the Early Learning Council.

- 1) The *Guam Early Learning Council* has the following as its goals:
 - a. To serve as the required state council for Guam's Head Start Program;
 - b. To increase supports and services for young children and their families by strengthening cross-agency coordination, involving public and private entities, to ensure delivery of comprehensive services for young children and their families; and
 - c. To expand and refine Guam's Policy Agenda for Early Learning Birth to Five.
- 2) The *Guam Early Learning Council* has the following objectives to support these goals:
 - a. Strengthen collaboration among governance entities that oversee and coordinate subsystems;
 - b. Leverage funding streams to maximize resources;
 - c. Develop and implement a mechanism for cross-agency data collection for monitoring and reporting;
 - d. Create cross-agency standards for child and family outcomes;
 - e. Refine professional development structures to ensure an appropriately skilled systems workforce; and
 - f. Expand awareness of and access to parent education and family supports.

SECTION III.

Roles and Responsibilities.

- 1) The *Guam Early Learning Council* will oversee and ensure the effective and efficient collaboration within Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System and is empowered to:
 - a. Make recommendations on the most effective policy direction and methods to improve the coordination, quality, and delivery of quality health care and education services for young children on Guam;
 - b. Critically examine and prioritize funding in support of child and family outcomes;
 - c. Promote and support the acquisition of funding opportunities, through government and private organizations, in support of the overall vision and mission of the Early Childhood Comprehensive System;



- d. Provide input to the Strategic Management Team of Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive System to ensure the collaboration and integration of data collection and evaluation, leveraging of resources and funding, and public awareness and education on the importance of early childhood;
- e. Provide the Governor and Legislature a "State of Early Childhood Health and Education on Guam" Brief;
- f. Establish policies and procedures for the efficient and effective decision-making processes in support of their responsibilities; and
- g. Regularly review goals and objectives to ensure they are responsive and relevant to the evolving needs of Guam's youngest children and their families.

Carry out the responsibilities mandated and outlined in the National legislation, "Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007" (P.L. 110-134), Section 642B and others assigned by the Governor of Guam.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagatna, Guam this <u>9th</u> day of April, 2008.

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FELIX P. CAMACHO I Maga'låhen Guåhan Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

MICHAEL W. CRUZ, M.D. I Segundu Maga' Låhen Guåhan Lieutenant Governor of Guam

