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EXECUTIVE ORDER 89-11

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARIZONA INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (P.L. 99-457)

WHEREAS, Congress, in 1986, enacted and the President signed Public Law 99-457, which authorizes an early intervention program under the Education of the Handicapped Act for handicapped infants and toddlers and their families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education, in its report to Congress has stated that studies of the effectiveness of early education for handicapped persons have demonstrated beyond a doubt the economic and educational benefits of programs for young handicapped children; and

WHEREAS, these studies have also shown that the earlier intervention is started, the higher the rate of educational attainment by these handicapped children and the greater the ultimate dollar savings; and

WHEREAS, the family is the principle influence upon the growth and development of infants and toddlers, and the family environment has a great influence on the health of infants and toddlers in terms of the physical necessities of life as well as the emotional support and intellectual stimulation needed for healthy growth and development and, therefore, the creation of family-centered intervention and prevention services is essential; and

WHEREAS, the Departments of Education, Health Services and Economic Security support the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency program of early intervention services for all handicapped infants, toddlers and their families; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, through the Education of the Handicapped Act, has provided the State with the opportunity to receive federal funds to plan, develop and implement an early childhood program; and

WHEREAS, participation in these federal grants requires implementation of various plans and administrative procedures,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rose Mofford, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority invested in me as Governor by the Arizona Constitution and the Laws of this State, hereby order the following:

1. The Department of Economic Security (DES) shall be designated the lead agency in compliance with Part H, Section 676(b)(9), Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (P.L. 99-457).

2. An Interagency Coordinating Council shall be established in compliance with Part H, Section 682 of the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (P.L. 99-457).

3. The Council shall be responsible to the Office of the Governor. The Department of Economic Security shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the Council, subject to legislative appropriation.

The lead agency will be responsible for the following activities:

1. The general administration, supervision and monitoring of the programs and activities receiving assistance under Part H of the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (P.L. 99-457).

2. The identification and coordination of all resources available to the State from federal, state, local and private sources;

3. The assignment of financial responsibility to appropriate state agencies;

4. The development of procedures to ensure that services are provided to handicapped infants, toddlers, and their families in a timely manner pending the resolution of any disputes among public agencies or service providers;

5. The resolution of intra- and interagency disputes; and

6. The entry into formal interagency agreements that define the financial responsibility of each agency for paying for early intervention services (consistent with State law) and procedures for resolving disputes and that include all additional components necessary to ensure meaningful cooperation and coordination.

The Council shall operate in the following manner:

1. The functions of the Council shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. Advising and assisting the lead agency in the performance of the designated responsibilities, particularly the identification of sources for early intervention programs, assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency, and the promotion of interagency agreements;

b. Advising and assisting the lead agency in the preparation of applications and amendments thereto; and

c. Preparing and approving a budget, using available funds to obtain the services of such professional and technical personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions under this Executive Order;

d. Hire appropriate staff (within available funds) to fulfill its responsibilities, including a director, in accordance with DES and Division of Personnel Rules and Regulations in conjunction with the DES Director. The staff shall be responsible to the Council, but receive administrative supervision from the Department of Economic Security.

e. Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education on the status of early intervention programs for handicapped infants, toddlers and their families operated within the State of Arizona.

2. The Council shall perform such other functions as are necessary to fulfill its duties under federal law and this Executive Order including, but not limited to:

a. Promoting family-centered intervention and prevention services statewide through public education on the value of and need for such services;

b. Advocating for the coordination of the monitoring and evaluation of state and federal resources used for all programs serving handicapped infants and toddlers and their families.

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

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this ninth day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-nine and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirteenth.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State

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