THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is deeply committed to the education and care of our youngest citizens; and

WHEREAS: In 2009, Georgia's population included more than 740,000 children ages birth to five years throughout all 159 counties; and

WHEREAS: In 2009, an Executive Order was issued establishing the Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Council); and

WHEREAS: In 2010, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start) received a federal grant to fund the Council; and

WHEREAS: The Council is charged with making informed recommendations for planning better coordinated systems, facilitating working relationships among essential partners, and moving towards integrated delivery services to young children and their families, and will also reinforce and strengthen statewide management among existing programs, such as prekindergarten, child care, Head Start, and other early childhood care and education programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care is hereby continued.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That Bright from the Start will serve as the lead agent and fiscal agent for the Council.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Commissioner of Bright from the Start shall serve as the chair of the Council and may designate another appointed member of the Council to serve as co-chair, upon approval of the Governor.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the members of the Council shall be Bobby Cagle, Dr. John D. Barge, Katie Brochu, Arlinda Eaton, Tony Foskey, Susie Wilcher, Janice Haker, Clyde Reese, Frank Shelp, Jen Bennecke, Dawn Coleman, Stephanie Blank, Debbie Hall, Kevin Fletcher, Laucenia Frasier, Dr. Carolyn Frasier, Dr. Carolyn Ormsby, Sarah Hawthorne, Kay Hellwig, and India Moorhouse.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Council shall work together to plan better coordinated systems, facilitate working relationships among essential partners, and move towards integrated delivery of services to young children and families. The Council shall also work to:

- Reinforce and strengthen statewide management among existing programs, such as prekindergarten, child care, Head Start, and other early childhood care and education programs;
- Prepare a needs assessment and comprehensive plan recommending a direction for early learning policy in Georgia that includes recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in high-quality early learning and care programs;
- Prepare recommendations for
    - Improving early learning standards and assessment,
    - Improving oversight and monitoring of early learning programs,
    - Developing a unified data collection system,
    - Improving outreach to the parents of young children,
    - Improving the ability of higher education to train early childhood educators and to strengthen overall teacher and provider quality,
    - Improving statewide professional development and career advancement plans,
    - Coordinating health screenings and programs supporting healthy child development with early learning and care programs, and
    - Whatever other issues the Governor and the Council find necessary to address to improve the quality of education and quality care for young children in Georgia.

This 29 day of April, 2011.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Executive Secretary