



## Early Childhood Cabinet

February 19, 2008

Dear Help Me Grow Stakeholders:

As many of you know, the Early Childhood Cabinet was created by Governor Strickland in March 2007 through an Executive Order. The purpose of the Early Childhood Cabinet is to unite key state agencies (Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Mental Health & Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities) around the common goal of promoting school readiness by setting and coordinating state policy and programs which serve Ohio's children, prenatal to six years of age.

The services and supports provided through Help Me Grow are critical to Ohio achieving its goal of, "All children have access to early childhood programs and supports in order to be socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually prepared to use his or her capabilities to succeed". Therefore, the Early Childhood Cabinet will take the next three months to review the current administration, funding, federal compliance, successes and opportunities of Help Me Grow. This review process will determine if any policies, program/system re-design or accountability systems need to be updated, created or revised in order to serve families as effectively and efficiently as possible. This process is scheduled to begin in early March.

During this process it will be imperative to seek the input of local early childhood providers and partners. Early on in the discussion, the Early Childhood Cabinet will determine the mechanism(s) for gathering this input. If at any time during this upcoming review you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Leatherman, Director of the Early Childhood Cabinet at 614-644-1191 or by e-mail at [leatha@odifs.state.oh.us](mailto:leatha@odifs.state.oh.us).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Angela Cornelius in cursive.

Angela Cornelius, Director  
ODADAS

Handwritten signature of Susan Zelman in cursive.

Dr. Susan Zelman, Superintendent  
ODE

Handwritten signature of Dr. Alvin Jackson in cursive.

Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director  
ODH

Handwritten signature of Helen Jones-Kelley in cursive.

Helen Jones-Kelley, Director  
ODJFS

Handwritten signature of Sandra Stephenson in cursive.

Sandra Stephenson, Director  
ODMH

Handwritten signature of John Martin in cursive.

John Martin, Director  
ODMRDD