



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Monday January 25, 2016

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Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Advisory Memorandum: Civil Rights and Federal Low-Income Childcare Subsidy Distributions in Mississippi

The Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released an advisory memorandum following a series of panel discussions on federal low-income childcare subsidy distributions in the State. The Committee's purpose was to examine concerns regarding disparate impact on the basis of race or color as a result of the State's discretionary distribution of the Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and related programs.

The Committee heard testimony from community members, child care providers, government officials, and experts in the field of early childhood education and development. Through this testimony, the Committee identified a number of discretionary policies and spending priorities which may unnecessarily restrict families in the greatest need from accessing quality, affordable child care—primarily families in low income communities of color. Forthcoming federal requirements may exacerbate some of these concerns. Further, testimony demonstrated significant mistrust and a guarded lack of cooperation between state officials and some child care providers. The Committee identified a number of recommendations to restore cooperation and address the most troublesome of these concerns. Committee Chair Dr. Susan Glisson said, "We all care deeply about the children in our state and want to make sure they all have the best care possible. Access to quality child care not only helps kids; it helps working families. We look forward to working with all partners to make sure all families are supported, especially Mississippi's most vulnerable families."

Full text of the Committee's findings is available at:

http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/MississippiCCS_memo_final_with%20appendix.pdf

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with studying and advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the reports and meetings of the Commission and its State Advisory Committees, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.

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