

Georgia Children's Cabinet
Tuesday, May 31, 2011 - Minutes
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
The Governor's Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA

Members Attending: First Lady Sandra Deal, Jen Bennecke (GOCF), James Whitfield (CJCJ), Amy Howell (DJJ), Tonya Boga (OCA), Rob Rosenbloom (DJJ), Eric John (CJCJ), Garry McGiboney (DOE), Brian Castrucci (DCH), Carl Brown (DJJ), Diana Aspinwall (DJJ)

Members Not Attending: Dr. Frank Shelp (DBHDD), David Cook (DCH), Debbie Hall (DCH), Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Dr. John Barge (DOE), Tonia Poole (Disability Services), Rachelle Carnesale (DFCS), Clyde Reese (DHS), Brenda Fitzgerald (DCH), David Tanner (OPB), Russell Crutchfield (OPB)

Others Attending: Monica Parker (DBHDD), James T. Peoples (DCH), Peggy Woodard (DFCS), Andy Barclay (Fostering Court Improvement), Christopher Church (Committee on Justice for Children), Ember Bishop (First Lady's Office), Libby Kauss (GOCF)

| Agenda Issue | Discussion | Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up |
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| Opening Remarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made. ➤ Mrs. Deal asked the Cabinet members to keep in mind recommendations for additional valuable members/agencies to be added to the group so they may be included in the work of the Cabinet. | |
| Runaway and Homeless Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Bennecke reiterated the Cabinet's priority to target the issue of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) by first gauging the scope of the issue in Georgia. ➤ GOCF participated in DCA's biannual study of the homeless population, specifically counting homeless youth in the area. ➤ This study utilized survey questionnaires as well as independent counts of youth in Chatham, Clarke, Cobb, Richmond, Muscogee, and the Tri-J area. ➤ An interim report is available, as the final report has not yet been published. The report includes some recommendations to the Cabinet as well as a progress report on the project's status, design, and initial findings. <i>NOTE: This interim report is included in this session's meeting materials.</i> ➤ <u>Interim report highlights:</u> 450 surveys were collected from unsheltered locations, and 150 surveys were collected from shelter sites and support programs; it is difficult to get an accurate count of unsheltered homeless individuals during cold months; service providers and "veteran" homeless youth helped gather and conduct surveys and counts. ➤ Possibility of partnering with Kennesaw State University to interpret the final outcomes and data from this report. ➤ The runaway and homeless youth subcommittee is on hold until the final report is available so that they may share the findings and recommendations with the Cabinet, who may advise the group as to how it should proceed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once the final report on the count is released, subcommittee will share findings with Cabinet. ➤ Once final report recommendations are provided, Cabinet may determine how it would like to proceed/use this information. |

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| <p>Children’s Code Re-write Legislative Update</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Com. Howell updated the group on the initiative to re-write the juvenile code, explaining that a bill regarding the issue had been dropped from the House. However, the Senate bill remains, and hearings regarding this re-write will be held during the summer. ➤ Com. Howell explained that Governor Deal’s policy staff wanted to get on board with this task. With this added support, the re-write has been slightly delayed so they may familiarize themselves with the content. ➤ At this point, the group is waiting for an update from the CHINS subcommittee, which Com. Howell will hopefully be able to share at the next Cabinet meeting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Check status/progress of Senate bill at the next Cabinet meeting. ➤ Share update from the CHINS subcommittee once it is received at the next Cabinet meeting. |
| <p>Outcomes and Measures</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Bennecke recognized the partners who were able to share information/contribute to the outcome information being tracked by the Cabinet. This was truly a collaborative group effort. ➤ Ms. Bennecke summarized for the Cabinet that there are 3 projects the group is undertaking with regard to this tracking: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a dashboard of indicators that the Cabinet seeks to track. 2. Supplementing this dashboard with a scoreboard detailing information on the indicators by providing baseline and target data, data source, etc. in order to notice trends or cross-system overlap. 3. Determining quarterly indicators, showcasing some key indicators that should also be tracked quarterly in addition to annually. ➤ The outcome dashboard is intended to be a snapshot of indicators that the Cabinet is interested in tracking. ➤ Ms. Bennecke asked that the Cabinet members review the dashboard as well as the scoreboard so they may check for accuracy as well as additional items that should be tracked. ➤ Com. Howell indicated that DJJ can offer some data which may fall under the “Educated” category. ➤ Mr. Castrucci suggested adding oral health to the “Healthy” portion of the scoreboard, which DCH may be able to provide. Ms. Bennecke and Mr. Castrucci will collaborate offline about gathering this information. ➤ In terms of tracking volunteerism rates, there does not seem to be any centralized way to track the data outside of some national data from Volunteering in America. However, this information from Volunteering in America is not broken up by age. ➤ Mrs. Deal suggested contacting agencies through sign-in sheets, noting that the state should be keeping a clearer, more accurate count of those who are volunteering. ➤ Judge Whitfield and Mr. John suggested collecting volunteerism information by school participation and organization. Mr. McGiboney noted that this would need to be | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cabinet members look over dashboard and scoreboard documents to ensure accuracy of information. Cabinet members may also suggest additional indicators that ought to be tracked. ➤ Gather additional “Educated” data from DJJ. ➤ Include in dashboard/scoreboard oral health data per DCH. ➤ DOE and DCH to determine how to coordinate collecting school-based volunteerism information. ➤ Cabinet member agencies will finalize remaining baseline and target data. At the next |

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| | <p>counted on a school by school level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Castrucci suggested utilizing the Youth Risk Behaviors Survey, perhaps adding a question about volunteerism to the survey. He included that Title V could potentially fund this effort. ➤ DOE and Public Health will discuss how to coordinate collecting this information through surveys. ➤ Ms. Boga suggested collecting volunteerism information through nonprofit and faith community organizations; Ms. Bennecke wondered how feasible it is to obtain contact information for these sites and actually get in touch with all of them. ➤ Judge Whitfield suggested also counting court mandated community service, which Mrs. Deal noted she would like to see included in the volunteerism rates. ➤ Mr. McGiboney wondered where Volunteering in America got its information from, which may have been from census data. ➤ Com. Howell suggests that it might be a good idea to set up a new system moving forward for collecting/tracking volunteer information. ➤ Ms. Bennecke noted that in terms of the scoreboard, we are still missing some target data. This may be because some agencies are still involved in their strategic planning process, or the agencies are just beginning to track and collect this data. ➤ Ms. Woodard suggested collecting data on drug-exposed infants (at birth); she notes that DFCS has this information available. ➤ Ms. Bennecke explained the note accompanying “Safe 14-18 – Intimate partner violence.” The current percent (16%) reflects the number of youth who REPORT experiencing intimate partner violence through the Youth Risk Behaviors Survey. Ms. Bennecke asks whether we should also track those utilizing services for sexual assault. ➤ Com. Howell suggests that individuals might more readily report anonymously intimate partner violence rather than use services from a sexual assault center, so the former might be a more accurate picture. ➤ Ms. Bennecke also explained the “Supported 0-5 – number of children living in poverty” category, noting that the number is not broken down by age group. When asked if any members had any other breakdown or thoughts on this being a sufficient number for looking at the population of those living in poverty, no group members commented. ➤ Ms. Bennecke also explained that the number reported in “Supported 0-5 – children in out of home placements” is the percentage out of all children in care. ➤ Ms. Woodard explained that we may further break out this placement information in terms of residential, relative, etc. placement via DFCS data. | <p>meeting there will be a final version of the outcome dashboard and scoreboard, in addition to initial data for quarterly data indicators.</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Com. Howell noted that other state agency placements such as DJJ should be included as we track this information. ➤ For “Supported 14-18 – number of juvenile justice intakes,” Mr. Rosenbloom suggested tracking both unique and total intake admissions. ➤ In terms of tracking afterschool programs, DFCS, GOCF, and DOE all have funded afterschool programs. However, does the Cabinet wish to track this by the number of youth who participate in afterschool programs or the number of counties which offer afterschool programs? ➤ Mr. McGiboney notes that it might be beneficial to track both since they may be related in some ways. ➤ Quarterly indicator recommendations to be reviewed by Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of completed investigations and substantiated victims of child abuse/neglect 2. Eligible children, 0-4, enrolled in WIC (monthly) 3. Percentage of youth with identified behavioral health needs that utilized community-based services and supports and remained in the community. 4. Number of juvenile justice intakes (types of offense/status) 5. Volunteerism ➤ Com. Howell noted that DJJ might want to also include mental health information. Also, intakes don’t really reflect outcomes. She suggested tracking recidivism rates instead of intakes, or perhaps in addition to intakes. ➤ Mr. Castrucci suggested also tracking quarterly expenditures on medically obese children (through DCH). ➤ Mr. Rosenbloom noted that DJJ doesn’t capture all data across the state because of independent courts; but including independent courts and DJJ might give a fuller/more accurate glimpse of information. ➤ Next steps – member agencies will finalize remaining baseline and target data. At the next meeting there will be a final version of the outcome dashboard and scoreboard, in addition to initial data for quarterly data indicators. ➤ Ms. Bennecke thanked Cabinet members and their teams for their participation. | |
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| <p>Children’s Mental Health work group</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Parker explained the collaboration between GOFC and DBHDD to address the mental health needs of children. She explained that Georgia previously received infrastructure funding to examine cross-system issues as they relate to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health conditions, but this grant ended in March 2011. The Children’s Cabinet served as the governance over this effort. ➤ As a result, DBHDD has created an interim interagency work group for children’s mental health concerns consisting of members on a directors level, but it needs to be sustained. Ms. Bennecke, Ms. Parker, and the Cabinet all have children’s mental health issues they would like to look at further so as to implement a system of care approach to a mental health program for children. Ms. Parker noted that it would be ideal to have a “home base” for their working group. As a result, she proposed that a children’s mental health subcommittee be formed out of the Cabinet. Per the Cabinet’s approval, this would absorb the current interagency work group led by DBHDD and GOFC. ➤ Ms. Parker noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet agencies could work together to create joint working plans, with each agency sharing priorities. • An SOC state plan was produced from the previous grant; Ms. Bennecke reminded that Children’s Cabinet was also cited in this grant application as the governance body. • Children’s mental health subcommittee to examine issues and make recommendations to Cabinet ➤ Com. Howell thinks the creation of this subcommittee is a great idea, especially considering Governor Deal’s focus on mental health in both adults and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children’s Mental Health Subcommittee membership approved by Cabinet. ➤ Children’s Mental Health Subcommittee will meet and make recommendations to Cabinet for next Cabinet meeting. |
| <p>Cross-system data utilization</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andy Barclay, statistician, and Christopher Church shared a PowerPoint presentation where they have mapped area data in different communities in Georgia, overlaying child maltreatment data with additional information. ➤ They created what they term the Child Welfare Doppler Radar – they use Google Maps to overlay activity in areas of Georgia, using DFCS and DJJ data. ➤ This is valuable information to share with stakeholders who can visualize this information. ➤ However, it is important to note that this information only captures a fraction of the actual victims of child maltreatment, etc. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Barclay and Mr. Church showed a map of DFCS and DJJ data in Bethel Midtown Village in Athens. They stated that fixing this area’s issues would give some great return on investment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPS dynamics in Clarke County revealed a hotspot of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cabinet members will determine how to best use this data Doppler mapping for the group’s needs. ➤ Cabinet members will also consider the presentation’s recommendations and findings in terms of hotspot targeting, |

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| | <p>activity in Bethel Midtown. While this is not a housing project, this area gets a lot of the Section 8 housing vouchers who aren't eligible for the housing projects northwest of the area.</p> <p>2. Yamacraw Village in Savannah was shown as another example. While there are many resources in this area, there is not much return on investment there. Perhaps this is due to a lack of community resources near the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The data can also allow stakeholders to visualize types of abuse and ages; for instance, in Savannah they noted the areas where there were many young children experiencing abuse, and many older children experiencing neglect. These were not the same areas. ➤ Mr. Barclay and Mr. Church met with DFCS, housing authority, and DJJ in Savannah to talk about Yamacraw Village (largest public housing project in Savannah). They learned that it is a more appealing option for those requiring assistance because there are not as many restrictions as compared to the housing projects examined in Athens. ➤ This presentation begs the question that if we are investing resources in these areas, is this the best use of our money if outcomes are not changing/are getting worse? This tracking can now support or refute such questions for resource allocation. ➤ Mr. Barclay and Mr. Church noted that there seems to always be a hotspot in an area regardless of rural or urban setting. ➤ Their mapping shows that delinquency is not lining up with DFCS data, calling into question a connection between the two issues. ➤ Mr. Barclay made the following recommendations for interventions given this tool: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target hotspots for pilot interventions, which will show more of a statistically significant effect. 2. Involve DCA and HUD . 3. From a statistically significant point of view, select one area/hotspot and track the investments of agencies in that area – DCA and HUD need to be involved in this data collection in terms of housing patterns in the area. Selecting a hotspot would yield more observable effects/impacts from any intervention. ➤ Mr. Peoples asked if there is a way to demonstrate the investment of agencies in these areas so we may determine if we are allocating too many or too few resources to these areas. He noted that DCH could demonstrate where clinics, initiatives, etc. are invested in the area. | <p>overlaying more data, resource investment, and additional agency collaboration.</p> |
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| <p>Cabinet purpose and focus</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In discussing the Cabinet’s focus, the group looked at the outcome dashboard, and questions were posed by Ms. Bennecke if the group would like to monitor additional indicators, explore other data topics, target particular populations, or pursue any policy changes. ➤ Com. Howell suggested that the group utilize some strategic planning, noting that this would contribute to greater cohesion and direction for the group. ➤ Ms. Bennecke commented that this sort of strategic planning had not been done in roughly two years, so this might be a helpful option for the group. She noted that strategic planning would help the group determine what differentiates the Children’s Cabinet from other collaborative groups as well as future projects or targets they may be interested in exploring. ➤ Ms. Bennecke shared that a facilitator could lead the group in this strategic planning process. ➤ Mr. John noted that the group previously participated in a one-day strategic planning session, and he remarked that this was quite helpful and a sufficient amount of time to help the group determine next work. ➤ Mr. Rosenbloom noted that Ms. Parker and Ms. Bennecke’s suggestion for a children’s mental health subcommittee would be of interest for the group given the cross-over between mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice, etc. He also noted that such a project could also lead to a children-specific focus for mental health resources, as many mental health resources are often directed towards adults. Ms. Parker noted that the next goal of the children’s mental health subcommittee is to determine what issues and barriers are facing children with mental health conditions. ➤ Mr. Castrucci suggested that the Cabinet should also look into options for data sharing to create more effective and integrated interventions. He remarked that there is a need to link data across agencies. He also stated that it might be helpful for the group to then look at individual-level data to monitor longitudinal studies and results. He suggested beginning with an inventory, and he noted that a partnership with Georgia State University or University of Georgia faculty might be helpful in collecting this information. ➤ Ms. Bennecke noted that GOCF is doing similar data sharing with CSEC victims, although it is tracking their information retroactively. ➤ Judge Whitfield cautioned the group about this data sharing, stating that they may be trying to compare numbers and data which have no correlation. Mr. Barclay seconded this possibility, noting that it is important to make such links. However, by examining the sensitivity and specificity of the data, it is possible to make more rigorous connections. ➤ Mr. McGiboney mentioned the data passport project within | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Schedule strategic planning session for the group. |
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| | <p>the Cabinet several years ago. He reminded the group that it might be more efficient instead to share agency-relevant data rather than linking the data into some source. For example, DOE has a project which tracks student records up to 7 years back, showing attendance, CRCT scores, etc. He gave the example that attendance records per the DOE might be significant for DJJ and possibly all agencies represented among the Children’s Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Bennecke summarized that the group may benefit from a strategic planning session which will look at data sharing across agencies and targeting community activity hotspots as well as government investment in those communities. Mrs. Deal seconded this suggestion. ➤ Mrs. Deal noted that she and Ms. Bishop are in the process of visiting several public and private agencies in the state to better familiarize herself with the work being carried out. | |
| Agency announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Com. Howell announced that this would be Mr. Rosenbloom’s last Cabinet meeting per his retirement from state government in August 2011. Carl Brown will be assuming Mr. Rosenbloom’s post in the Cabinet. ➤ Mr. Rosenbloom thanked the group for the opportunity to work with the Children’s Cabinet, highlighting the agency collaboration within the group. ➤ Mr. John indicated that the juvenile court judges appreciate the influence and participation of the Cabinet. He gave Com. Howell a special thank you for their work together on the recent legislation. | |
| Adjourn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Deal thanked the Cabinet members for their attendance and participation. ➤ Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM. | |
| <p><i>The next Georgia Children’s Cabinet meeting will be held on the third Thursday of July (July 21, 2011).</i></p> | | |