



Georgia Children's Cabinet Planning Session
July 19, 2011



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Overview

Session Participants

- Sandra Deal, First Lady of Georgia, Governor's Mansion
- Diana Aspinwall, Chief of Staff, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Jen Bennecke, Executive Director, Georgia's Office of Children and Families
- Ember Bishop, Assistant to the First Lady, Governor's Mansion
- Tonya Boga, Director, Office of the Child Advocate
- Bobby Cagle, Commissioner, Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Learning
- Rachele Carnesale, Director, Department of Family and Children Services
- Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, Director, DCH, Division of Public Health
- Debbie Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Community Health
- Linda Henderson, CBAY Project Director, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Marsha Hopkins – Deputy Commissioner, Department of Human Services
- Amy Howell, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Eric John, Executive Director, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Libby Kauss, Student Intern, State of Georgia
- Corinna Magelund, Ombudsman, Governor's Office of Disability Services
- Arianne Weldon, Deputy Directory, DCH, Division of Public Health
- Chris Wright, Policy Analyst, Office of Planning and Budget

Jim Neal and Billy Pinkston of North Highland facilitated the session.

Session Objective

The session objective was distributed prior to the meeting to the attendees and reviewed as part of the meeting introduction

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To refine the role of the Children's Cabinet as a stimulus for positive change for Georgia's children.• To optimize Cabinet processes and routines as a means for achieving Cabinet outcomes
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Session Agenda

The following agenda was approved prior to the meeting and reviewed with the participants during the meeting introduction.

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and Plan for the Day
- Discussion – Our Role in Driving Outcomes for Georgia's Children
- Progress Briefing – Children's Cabinet Scoreboard
- Workshop – Cabinet Core Processes for Accomplishing our Role
- Discussion - Action Plans for Establishing Optimized Cabinet Processes
- Close

Session Documentation

Individual Goals for the Meeting

Session participants introduced themselves and provided thoughts about their goals for the meeting.

Participant's Goals for the Meeting

- Understand the data we have
- See how each group represented can think about health priorities
- Continue the momentum of the First Lady's sponsorship of the Cabinet
- Reach a sense of urgency around a population base
- Find out how the work of DBHDD connects to the Cabinet
- Learn about Strategic Planning
- Understand how we can all move forward with a focus, for instance around a category or population
- Help develop strategic plans which will impact budget decisions
- Governor's thoughts: preparing children so that they will be able to read and have math skills – must start earlier in preparing them, which takes into account health and safety
- Talk about how we can be data driven as a group
- Support the First Lady's efforts in advocating for the Children's Cabinet
- Continue collaboration and holistic view of the children
- Keep the bigger picture in mind
- Determine what our focus is going to be – use data to help us focus
- Articulate a specific goal for this group to achieve with measurable results
- Focus on goals that are enabled by collaboration
- Keep learning about the different Departments
- Improve communications
- Grasp opportunities for collaboration – make connections on things where we can start to immediately collaborate

Discussion – Our Role in Driving Outcomes for Georgia's Children

Each participant was asked to provide answers to the following two questions:

1. What is the single thing the Cabinet can do to have the greatest impact?
2. What would you see the Cabinet doing in our Cabinet meetings if we were focused on delivering the "highest impact" item

Impact and Actions	
Areas of Cabinet's Greatest Impact	Cabinet Meeting Focus if Delivering the Greatest Impact Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source for gathering the data • Sharing Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share our data and concerns in the meetings so that we are working from facts that can be easily communicated • We need to decide we want to play well with each other – Agency heads could tell staff that we are going to share data, and figure out how to do it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on outcomes for children in or under state care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the system of care (system of care - collaborative approach in NW region of Georgia where all stakeholders are at the table talking about cross-coordination of services)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on determining where the breakdowns are located, and fixing breakdowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Cabinet discussions are a safe place to discuss challenges and address agencies' issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a high-level problem solving group that can address barriers to serving needs of children and families 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the cyclical issues, such as teenage moms and their children; focus on ways to help break/prevent the cycle 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set clear collaborative goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular reports on the data; accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the First Lady in communicating what we are doing and supporting PR for Cabinet issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate, collaborate with the First Lady
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help identify creative funding options; everyone has to work together to share information and financial resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share financial information and resources • Data driven collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand system of care 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the costs of serving the "high end" child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention / Intervention 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing where there is common interest to all the agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a "listserv" type service, sharepoint, or other vehicle where information can be captured and shared outside of meetings

The following themes for the Cabinet emerged from the Impact and Actions discussion:

Key Themes to Increase Cabinet Impact

- Data, data, data
- Unite resources for a common, defined, goal
- High level problem solving, work as “barrier breakers”
- Focus on children in and under state care
- Expand the system of care concept

Georgia Children's Cabinet Scoreboard and Scorecard Update

Jen Bennecke provided an overview of the current Cabinet Dashboard and Scorecard. The team then discussed the concept of the Dashboard and Scorecard and identified the following ideas for enhancing or using the data. Items in **bold** were identified as topics for the Cabinet to further explore in this meeting.

Enhancements / Use of Cabinet Scorecard Data

- Utilize green, yellow, red indicators to help focus review of data
- Use data to determine what is working or not working
- Focus on ideas and assistance to help agencies address their issues
- Cabinet is not a governance group
- Find a way to keep the data up to date and readily available
- Focus on priorities by viewing the data through various lenses such as:
 - Population
 - Objective (Healthy, Safe, etc.)
 - Geography
 - Others?
- Need to have explanation and context to support any focused review of data – trends, factors behind the data, insights from other states, etc.
- Figure out how to have a data focused discussion – what are the data agenda and the cadence for the discussion? Focus the discussion on relevant data, ideas and decision making rather than just review of lots of data
- Identify the related policy implications to the data – use the data for thinking and policy and to support open discussions
- Share data used in the Cabinet within agencies
- Data is primarily for the working group use of the Cabinet, not publication
- **Set criteria that will help up prioritize the data for our attention**
- **Determine focus areas – use the data to help us find our initial focus area – find focus priorities from the data**

Criteria for Prioritizing Data

Participants worked in small groups to identify criteria for prioritizing data, some candidate measures for the Cabinet's focused attention, and to address the question, "What should we do with the data?"

Team 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each involved agency has the ability to impact (cross-agency involvement) • Fiscal implications for involved agencies of failing to act • High resource utilization (more money) • Direction / leadership from the executive branch • Timing is right • Data demonstrates a need for change
Team 2	<p>"Lots of kids, lots of money, lots of agencies"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High number of kids • High cost youth (state \$) • Multi-agency involvement
Team 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention (0-5 population) • Housing stability (leading indicators) • Impact of poverty (leading indicators)

Candidate Measures for Cabinet Focus

Team 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood obesity • Teen pregnancy • Sexually trafficked children • Pre-term births
Team 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of 3rd graders who achieve a score of "at or above proficient " in reading and math standard assessments (Educated) • Childhood obesity (Healthy) • Rate of completed and substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect (Safe) • Children in and out of home placements (Supported) • Teenage pregnancy
Team 3	<p>Supported: (0-5) population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of children living in poverty • Eligible households with children receiving food stamps <p>Safe: (0-5) population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of completed and substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect • Percentage of new mothers abused during pregnancy

What Should We Do with the Data?

Team 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive priorities and strategies • Lead agency selection / determinations • Guide who is making presentations – also include Cabinet members proactively suggesting how they can support • Roadmap for issue owners • Budget implications • Policy implications
Team 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at data as endpoints and look at the lead variable data as well to see how to solve the problem • Identify the barriers to better data and work through as a group • Set benchmarks each year and track over next couple of years
Team 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help define strategies • Identify and focus on early intervention services

Cabinet Effectiveness

After reviewing the group work in the prior section, Cabinet members were asked to provide their thoughts on how the Cabinet and its meetings could be more effective. Their answers were grouped into three theme areas and are listed below:

How do we make the Cabinet and its meetings more effective?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus the Cabinet's discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use data analysis to develop focus areas ○ Concentrate on 2 or 3 measures, one target population, etc ○ Get input from members on agenda development ○ Encourage a limited focus within meetings with agreement on next steps before adjournment • Collaborate to address tough issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work from a consensus on priorities ○ Talk about the hard issues; strive for in-depth discussions about system challenges and issues ○ Work as "barrier busters" – collaborate on solutions, resources, policies • Communicate the Cabinet's focus effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote the message of the Cabinet in other forums ○ Encourage greater visibility on Cabinet purpose ○ Implement a communication plan to broadcast progress, support needed, and success

Expectations for the Next Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following three items were mentioned as considerations for the next Cabinet meeting agenda:

Thoughts for the Next Cabinet Meeting Agenda

- Combine presentations with discussions focused on data
- Share issues and challenges – have open discussion
- Homeless children discussion – review findings from the survey / report