

**Georgia Children's Cabinet
Full Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 29, 2015 Minutes
Full Cabinet: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
The Governor's Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA**

Attendees: First Lady Sandra Deal, Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD), Richard Woods (Superintendent), Judge James Whitfield (Cobb Circuit Juvenile Court), Dr. Ashley Willcott (OCA), Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH), Commissioner Keith Horton (DHS), Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ), Commissioner Clyde Reese (DCH), Bonnie Holliday (State Charter School Commission), Erin Hames (Governor's Office), Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Bobby Cagle (DFCS), Eric John (CJCJ), Stephanie Blank (Blank Foundation), Representative Katie Dempsey (GA House of Representatives, District 13), Elaine Brown (Head Start Association), Janice Haker (DECAL), Donna Hyland (Children's Healthcare of Atlanta), Evelyn Johnson (GA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics), Rick Ward (GA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics), Matt Arthur (the Technical College System of Georgia) Dr. Emily Lembeck (Marietta City Schools Superintendent), Rob Anderson (Educational Access and Success), Director Martha Ann Todd (Office of Student Achievement),

Members Not in Attendance: Pat Willis (VOICES), Karen White (Moody AFB), Tony Foskey (Tender Years Learning Corporation), Danielle Cotton (Parent Representative), Pedro Cherry (Georgia Power), Representative Amy Carter (GA House of Representative, District 175), Senator Renee Unterman (Senate District 45)

Others Attending: Alyssa Botts (First Lady's Office), Katie McCreary (First Lady's Office), Meredith Shaddix (GOCF), Barbara Tempel (GOCF)

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up
Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was called to order by First Lady Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made. ➤ New members Dr. Emily Lembeck and Rob Anderson were introduced to the board. ➤ First Lady Deal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18th, 2014 Full Cabinet meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The minutes were approved. 	Approved
Servant's Heart Winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal stated that she was thrilled by the participation of the Servant's Heart nominations. The decision was difficult, but she chose Powell Fennell from the youth category and Lisa Dawson (GDPH) for the agency category. They will receive a commendation from Governor Deal and be invited to the Mansion for a visit and photo opportunity. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donna mentioned recognizing a social worker from DFCS who embodies a Servant’s Heart ➤ Director Cagle informed the Cabinet that in April they will have a social worker of the year. ➤ The Cabinet agreed that it would be supportive of this recognition. ➤ First Lady Deal volunteered that anyone who wishes for her to visit their program or school would be welcome to invite her and she would be glad to attend. She mentioned Ember Bishop moving to Economic Development and provided the emails of her new assistants: Katie McCreary (kmccreary@georgia.gov) and Alyssa Botts (abotts@georgia.gov) who can be contacted to schedule such appointments. 	
<p>Announcements and Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This portion of the meeting began by addressing updates that had occurred since the last meeting. Bobby Cagle updated the board on recommendations that have been submitted to make DFCS an attached agency to DHS. The governor has recommended a \$35 million budget increase to support the Child Welfare Reform Council requirements to include hiring of case workers to bring the workload ratio to 1:15. ➤ Katie Jo Ballard offered to send out an email to everyone once the bill number had been assigned, and Bobby Cagle emphasized the importance of calling your legislator to educate on these changes. ➤ Representative Katie Dempsey asked who was carrying the bill, to which Erin Hames replied that one of the Governor’s floor leaders would once it reached that point. Representative Dempsey also reaffirmed the idea of calling legislators, and added that callers might be educating them, because they may not know the details of the bill. 	
<p>Educational Changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Erin Hames began speaking about Governor Deal’s priorities this term that he addressed in the State of the State Address. The Governor wants to push for a constitutional amendment to allow for intervention in failing schools. 23% of Georgia schools, which represent nearly 375,000 children, are in failing schools in the state. She emphasized the importance of quality education for poverty reduction, in addition to reduction of criminal activity. The amendment would allow for the state to step in and assist in recovery of failing schools 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Erin Hames also addressed how the Education Reform Commission is working to address teacher retention rates, the lack of preschool providers in rural areas, and funding structure for K-12 schools. Matt Arthur was asked to Chair the subcommittee Move on When Ready. ➤ Bonnie Holliday brought up the success of charter schools and the importance of providing access to them outside of Metro Atlanta to improve the overall education of Georgia’s children. She mentioned the biggest struggle being the difficulty level of bringing quality providers to the more rural areas. She also addressed the success of a program partnering with Arrendale Prison and how they are looking to start a second program with a men’s facility. ➤ Avery Niles extended the conversation to include those in Juvenile Justice who were brought up to their expected grade level while in the detention system, but how that conversation needed to be communicated with other teachers and they need to be accepted back into the community. ➤ Discussion continued about ways to develop partnerships and communication between the offices and agencies to better serve students as well as various success stories. ➤ Judge Whitfield and Dr. Lembeck began a discussion concerning a student’s history from DFCS, DJJ, etc. being transferred electronically while still maintaining privacy. ➤ Commissioner Reese addressed some of the benefits of healthcare now being able to travel with children due to the state’s move to the Care Management Organization plan. ➤ First Lady Deal called on Commissioner Frank Berry to discuss any updates with children in the mental health system. He informed the board of some background on mental institutions in Georgia, he then went over pending and completed law suits to improve the system in the state. He offered for Matt Yancey to come and present to the Cabinet on the Children’s Programs with DHDD. ➤ First Lady Deal emphasized how this is the forum where we discuss issues that affect our children. She expressed joy that the group communicates so well and that this is the place to work together. 	
		Approved

<p>Proposed Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie Jo Ballard moved for a vote of the acceptance of the proposed monthly highlights for the year. She opened the floor for thoughts. ➤ Janice Hacker requested to consider Head Start Awareness Month being added to October's highlight. ➤ Donna Hyland requested for the inclusion of safe sleep and water safety to the proposed highlights. ➤ Katie Jo Ballard mentioned that safe sleep was included in September's topic and highlighted some of the other specifics of that month. ➤ Brenda Fitzgerald reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of safe sleep and mentioned that though the number of infants who died during sleep had dropped it was still entirely too high. She moved that what could be done to prevent those unnecessary deaths needed to be done. ➤ With Head Start Awareness, Safe Sleep, and Water Safety added, the motion to accept the proposed highlights passed. 	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Full Cabinet meeting concluded at 10:07 AM 	