

**Georgia Children’s Cabinet
Executive Meeting
Thursday, March 20th, 2014 - Minutes
Executive Cabinet: 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM
The Governor’s Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA**

Attendees: First Lady Sandra Deal, Director Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD), Director Ashley Willcott (OCA), Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH), Commissioner Keith Horton (DHS), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services Ombudsman), Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ), Commissioner Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Erin Hames (Governor’s Office), Bonnie Holliday (SCSC), Martha Ann Todd (GOSA)

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. John Barge (DOE), Eric John (CJCJ), Commissioner Clyde Reese (DCH)

Others Attending: Ember Bishop (First Lady’s Office), Hayley Howell (GOCF), Matthew Hawkins (GOCF), Barbara Tempel (GOCF)

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Action to Take up
Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was called to order by First Lady Deal. ➤ The First Lady welcomed the new Executive Director of the Office of the Child Advocate, Ashley Willcott. ➤ First Lady Deal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16th, 2014 Executive Cabinet meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The minutes were approved. 	Approved
Office of the Child Advocate Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Director Willcott presented her plan for OCA, as well as a follow up report from the previous presentation to the Full Cabinet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The report focuses on child drowning and sleep-related death. ➤ Director Ballard mentioned that Cabinet members wanted to see several years of data to determine where we may want to focus our awareness efforts and campaigns for water safety. ➤ Director Ballard asked if there was any interest in creating a subcommittee to address awareness and campaigns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Director Ballard mentioned Georgia Power’s interest ❖ Commissioner Berry expressed interest in participating ❖ Commissioner Cagle mentioned the American Red Cross and YMCA as potential organizations that the subcommittee could reach out to. ❖ Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned the Boys and Girls Club. ➤ Director Willcott mentioned that the OCA will work to split child drowning statistics between natural bodies of water and swimming pools in order to determine if there are additional 	

	<p>trends that can be addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was moved and adopted to create a water safety subcommittee. ➤ Erin Hames added to Director Willcott’s statements about the direction of OCA by mentioning Governor Deal’s decision to establish a ‘Child Welfare Reform Council’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The council will be chaired by Stephanie Blank. ❖ Mrs. Hames mentioned that the Governor’s goal is to look broadly at the system and not just foster care. 	
<p>Unified Data System Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Director Ballard’s presented on the Unified System that would accommodate easier access to child data across child-serving agencies in Georgia. ➤ Director Ballard stated that CJCC was working on a system that was creating a highway for adult and juvenile data. She posed to the Cabinet whether they would be interested in pursuing one adult/juvenile data system vs. the previously approved child unified data system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Fitzgerald agreed that she would want one system. She thought this would limit potential issues with procuring information that could occur when juveniles transition into becoming adults. ❖ Director Mary Ann Todd stated that having one system long-term would be wise. She also mentioned that when you start moving from data from one system to another you start running into a lot of data transference issues. ❖ Director Ballard stated that the Cabinet will move forward with the one adult/juvenile data system. ➤ Next, Director Ballard asked if the Cabinet was comfortable with an outside University hosting the system, UGA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned that the DPH did not have any issues hosting its cancer registry at Emory University. She was open to hosting externally. ❖ Director Willcott mentioned one benefit of hosting the system externally could be outside expertise. ❖ Director Martha Ann Todd stated that she had never been concerned with housing data externally. 	
<p>Read Across Georgia Update Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal transitioned the meeting to a “Read Across Georgia” update. ➤ Director Ballard commended the First Lady on her visits across the state to promote “Read Across Georgia”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ms. Ember Bishop mentioned that the First Lady has now visited over 350 schools in our state since the inception of the “Read Across Georgia” campaign. ➤ The First Lady thanked Cabinet members for participating in “Read Across Georgia” activities. ➤ The First Lady asked Commissioner Fitzgerald to present the Department of Public Health’s upcoming campaign, “Talk With Me Baby”. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Fitzgerald directed the members’ attention to the posters created by DPH to spread awareness about the importance of developing language skills at a young age. ➤ Commissioner Fitzgerald also mentioned the five companion videos that are intended for waiting rooms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned co-branding issues with the posters due to USDA protocol. ❖ However, the videos can have co-branding (i.e. “A message from WIC; A message from DECAL) ➤ Commissioner Fitzgerald mentioned a potential partnership with libraries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A summer lunch program provided in areas where there is not an existing in-school lunch program. ❖ She hoped the “Talk With Me Baby” initiative would influence the individuals taking part in this summer lunch program. ➤ Commissioner Fitzgerald stated that the posters were ready to print and that organizations can have them at any time. ➤ The kickoff date for the “Talk With Me Baby” campaign is tentatively set for June 1st. DPH has been having some issues with the testing process, therefore, the date could be pushed back. ➤ Commissioner Berry suggested reaching out to the American Pediatrics Association for help and placing information at all residential TANF locations. 	
<p>April Prevention and Awareness Month</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Berry stated that DBHDD is hosting some upcoming events with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Mental Health America. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Berry says there will be a proclamation day at the Capitol. ➤ Director Ballard spoke about ‘Wear Blue Day’, April 4th, 2014. Wear Blue Day is intended to bring awareness to child abuse and to support prevention measures. Director Ballard encouraged every Cabinet member to have their staff wear blue and post pictures on social media websites with the hashtag, #GAwearblue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She also reminded Cabinet members that there was going to be a proclamation by the Governor on April 2nd declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month. 	
<p>May Youth Employment Month</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal transitioned the meeting to speak about the upcoming May initiative: Youth Employment Month. ➤ Ms. Hayley Howell, the project coordinator, asked the Cabinet about any ideas they may have concerning youth employment initiatives. ➤ Commissioner Horton mentioned a program DHS does for its foster kids called TeenWork. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Georgia TeenWork Internship Program is an 	

	<p>opportunity for Georgia's foster care youth 15 - 17 years of age to participate in valuable career preparatory training and work experience within their communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The program has recently expanded to include any children in Fulton County receiving services from DHS. (i.e. Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc...) ➤ Ms. Hames suggested the “12 for Life” program run by Southwire. The program is located in Carrolton. It has been funded through the ‘Race to the Top’ innovation fund. 	
<p>Youth Writers Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal moved the direction of the meeting to an update of the Youth Writers program. ➤ Director Ballard mentioned that the First Lady has a standing article in <i>Southern Journal Magazine</i> and she has decided to lend her voice to raise some of the issues that Cabinet members would like to address. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Director Ballard said it was an excellent opportunity to highlight what each department is doing and also an opportunity for kids within each system to showcase their creativity and talents. 	
<p>Announcements and Celebrations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Horton announced that the CHINS MOU was completed and had been signed by the appropriate parties. ➤ Commissioner Horton also mentioned the success of the “Teens R 4 Me Conference” hosted by DHS. This is a foster care conference for teens that are about to age out. ➤ Commissioner Horton also mentioned a partnership with Rick Ward and the AAP concerning child abuse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Horton and DFCS Director Dr. Sharon Hill have meet with GAAAP officials to explain the availability of web based training for the mandatory reporting of child abuse by physicians. ❖ The partnership is intended to smooth the reporting process and improve communication between physicians and DFCS. ❖ As a result of the partnership, Georgia’s Obstetrics and Gynecology Association has been contacted by GAAAP and asked to emphasize the importance of reporting on pregnant mothers who are abusing drugs. ❖ DFCS and GAAAP have met twice and plan on continuing to meet. ➤ Ms. Bonnie Holliday announced that the State Charter Schools Commission had its first anniversary. She also wanted Cabinet members to feel free to email her about initiatives that the commission could help with or be informed about. ➤ Commissioner Niles stated that he was excited that the DJJ population continues to decrease. ➤ Commissioner Niles started a statewide ‘restock the shelves’ campaign in February. Commissioner Niles intends to restock 	

	<p>the food banks in each district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Cagle is concerned about the rising instances of children who have been left in vehicles at childcare facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Cagle mentioned his upcoming partnership with DPH in May on a HEAT campaign. ➤ Director Todd mentioned that the Reading Mentor Program is about to celebrate its second full year of implementation. ➤ Director Todd stated that GOSA is looking at mid-year data. So far the research has indicated that it is much easier to make an impact on Kindergarten and 1st grade students compared to 2nd grade students. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The First Lady thanked everyone for coming and called the Executive Cabinet meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM 	