

Georgia Children's Cabinet
Full Committee
Thursday, September 19, 2013 - Minutes
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
The Governor's Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA

Attendees: First Lady Sandra Deal, Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Eric John (CJCJ), Frank Berry (DBHDD), David Cook (DCH), Clyde Reese (DCH), Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ), Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH), Dr. John Barge (DOE), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services Ombudsman), Erin Hames (Governor's Office), Bonnie Holliday (GOSA), Commissioner Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Martha Ann Todd (GOSA)

Stephanie Blank (Blank Foundation), Rep. Katie Dempsey (HD 13), Donna Hyland (CHOA), Evelyn Johnson (American Academy of Pediatrics), Judge Jim Whitfield (Presiding Judge Cobb County Juvenile Court), Josephine Reed-Taylor (TCSG), Richard Ward (American Academy of Pediatrics), Pat Willis (Voices), Tonya Boga (OCA), Pedro Cherry (Georgia Power), Matt Arthur (Rabun County Schools), Janice Haker (State Director of Head Start Collaboration),

Members Absent: Karen White (Moody AFB), Amy Carter (HD 175), Senator Renee Unterman (SD 45), Danielle Cotton (Parent Representative), Tony Foskey (Local Provider), Lynne Weisenbach (Educational Access & Success),

Others Attending: Ember Bishop (First Lady's Office), Hayley Howell (GOCF), Arin Johnson (GOCF), Barbara Tempel (GOCF), Claire Davis (GOCF)

Agenda	Discussion	Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up
<p>Opening Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children’s Cabinet members took photo with the First Lady and Governor Deal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Photography services courtesy of Commissioner Cagle and Bright From the Start ➤ The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made. ➤ Mrs. Deal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on May 16, 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The minutes were approved 	<p>Approved</p>
<p>Monthly Updates – Safe Sleep, Pre-K, and Military Support Months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Director Katie Jo Ballard announced that the Safe Sleep Course is now available online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This course is brought to you in conjunction with the Department of Early Care and Learning and the Department of Public Health ➤ Director Ballard noted that June was Fitness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ballard thanked Donna Hyland and Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald for showing their support during the Storn4Life site visit. ➤ Ballard announced the Reel Change GA competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This is a competition meant to celebrate the 86% of Georgia’s youth who choose not to partake in under-aged drinking. ❖ More information on the competition can be found at ReelChangeGA.com ➤ Mrs. Deal announced that October is Pre-K month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She will be reading in pre-k classrooms to promote the importance of early education ➤ Mrs. Deal opened the floor for discussion and suggestions on what the Cabinet Members could do in support of Pre-K Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stephanie Blank suggested a Teacher of the Year for Pre-K teachers. Right now it’s just for K-12 teachers. ❖ Commissioner Cagle agreed that we want to highlight Pre-K teachers. He also suggested highlighting infant and toddler teachers. Commissioner Cagle went on to mention that Georgia has 2 winners of the Tylenol Teacher of the Year award which does highlight Pre-K teachers. ❖ Erin Hames agreed that highlighting those 	

	<p>teachers would be a great idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mrs. Deal noted from experience that teachers don't know each other's styles for teaching, so people other than co-teachers should vote. Input should be considered from parents, supervisors, and possibly outside consultants. ➤ Pat Willis announced that Voices is coordinating a Pre-K reading program for the month of October. She encouraged Cabinet Members to sign up to read to a classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ More information can be found at GAprekweek.org ➤ Matt Arthur announced a \$16 Million facility in Rabun County. They are planning events for the month of October. ➤ Mrs. Deal noted that we want to focus on the military for the month of November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She stated that many times children of the military are in need of some form of counseling due to unhappiness stemming from frequent moves, parental deployment, and other issues unique to the military. ➤ Katie Jo Ballard noted that the Governor's Office for Children and Families offers 4 grants for any military base to apply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The grants are for programs which support Pre-K reading, employment for military spouses, and job training for teens ❖ Ballard also noted that the grants are flexible in application because each military base may have an issue unique to its area. ➤ Stephanie Blank suggested a family picnic for military families ➤ Rick Ward mentioned how legislation affects military pediatrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Because military children move around so much, it has become increasingly difficult for pediatricians to have an up to date medical file. This has put the system under some strain. ❖ Ward mentioned that it is important to have a working mechanism for transferring records from a base to a facility. ➤ Mrs. Deal wrapped up the discussion by reminding the Cabinet to continue to brainstorm about what can be 	
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	done to assist military families.	
Children’s Cabinet Monthly Highlights 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie Jo Ballard introduced the Governor’s Strategic Goals for Georgia for 2014 and the monthly highlights supporting those goals. ➤ Janice Haker noted that October is also Head Start Awareness Month. She will have an events list on Friday, September 20th. ➤ Pedro Cherry mentioned that January is STEM Education Month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He noted the Learning Power program which targets 5th grade students and broadens their outlook on STEM education. ❖ He will have the dates for that program soon. ➤ Pat Willis noted that there is a statewide afterschool conference in January. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She will look into the date of the conference. ➤ Matt Arthur noted that colleges are doing quite a bit with STEM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Arthur stated that Georgia Tech is assisting Rabun County schools with STEM related programming. ➤ Martha Ann Todd suggested identifying some successful STEM programs like <i>STEM for Life</i>. ➤ Ember also mentioned creating an Instagram account and using something similar to <i>#WithAServantsHeart</i> as the official social media hashtag. ➤ March highlights the Read Across Georgia initiative ➤ Ember would like to expand the <i>read Across Georgia</i> initiative by highlighting Cabinet members reading to pre-k classrooms in order to demonstrate that the entire Cabinet is engaged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ember suggested that Cabinet members can travel with Mrs. Deal to pre-k classrooms or send a picture of themselves reading in for recognition ➤ Stephanie Blank asked whether or not there is a particular book promoted during <i>Read Across Georgia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mrs. Deal answered that she tries to read books by Georgia authors and illustrators ➤ Keith Horton mention an Empowerment Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Horton will have dates soon about when the conference takes place. ➤ Janice Haker mentioned that the month of March might also be a good time to promote school 	

	<p>attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie Jo mentioned that April is Prevention and Awareness Month ➤ Janice Haker noted that Head Start Georgia will be promoting Home Visiting resources to families. ➤ Rick Ward noted that the Georgia Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics will be highlighting children’s mental health. ➤ Commissioner Frank Berry noted that he would like to do a presentation to the Cabinet about youth health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mrs. Deal thought the presentation would serve greatly at the next Full Cabinet meeting. ➤ Evelyn Johnson noted that we should highlight safety in schools and bullying prevention ➤ Pat Willis noted that Voices is working to find how to measure bullying prevention. ➤ Avery Niles noted how the mental health of youth and safety in schools all tie in to Juvenile Justice Reform. ➤ Rick Ward noted that there is emerging thought in pediatrics about Constant Stress and how it impacts the mental stability of children ➤ Katie Jo Ballard noted that May is Youth Employment Month ➤ Mrs. Deal noted that June is Parent Engagement Month ➤ Donna Hyland thought it a good idea to reach out to the YMCA’s and Boys and Girls Clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Avery Niles noted that DJJ partners with the Boys and Girls Clubs ❖ Bobby Cagle noted that the <i>Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards</i> have videos online aimed to help parents identify developmental stages. ➤ Evelyn Johnson thought June would be an ideal opportunity to link back into the Governor’s <i>SHAPE</i> program ➤ Katie Jo Ballard noted that July will remain Immunization Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rick Ward thought this was a good time since kids go back to school around that time and the Cabinet could promote new immunizations required ➤ Janice Haker thought that July would also be a good 	
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	<p>time to include Flu Awareness as that is a big issue for Head Start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Please note that the list of Months with their corresponding theme is included in your GCC Blue Folder provided at the meeting.</i> 	
<p>Cabinet and Reach Out and Read Partnership/ARRA Final Report – Commissioner Bobby Cagle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cagle mentioned that DECAL now has a \$25,000 grant on behalf of the Georgia’s Children Cabinet ➤ Cagle provided each Cabinet member with a bound summary and a jump drive with the full report. ➤ Cagle explained the overview of Council Projects ➤ Cagle noted the Early Learning Challenge Grant is a federal grant for \$52 million over 4 years. ➤ Cagle requested that authority be given to Mrs. Deal and Katie Jo Ballard about signing the ELC Grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pat Willis motioned to support the ELC Grant ❖ Motion approved 	<p>Approved</p>
<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie Jo Ballard noted that the 2014 Cabinet meeting schedule will follow the same format as this year’s. 	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Deal dismissed the Cabinet 	