

**Georgia Children’s Cabinet**  
**Thursday, September 20, 2012 - Minutes**  
**Full Cabinet: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**  
**The Governor’s Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA**

**Attendees:** First Lady Sandra Deal, Judge Whitfield (CCJC), Eric John (CJCJ), Frank Berry (DBHDD), David Cook (DCH), Clyde Reese (DHS), L. Gale Buckner (DJJ), Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH),Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services), Erin Hames, Governor’s Office, Bonnie Holliday (GOSA) Tonya Boga (OCA)

**Members Not Attending:** Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Dr. John Barge (DOE)

Danielle Cotton, Parent Representative, Stephanie Blank, Blank Foundation, Dawn Coleman, Moody AFB, Lynne Weisenbach, USG,Toney Foskey, Local Provider, Pat Sims, GA Power, Belva Weathersby, Head Start Assoc., Pat Willis, VOICES, Evelyn Johnson, GA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Richard Ward, GA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Amy Carter, GA General Assembly, Jance Haker, DECAL, Josephine Reed-Taylor, TCSG

**Members Not Attending:** Ron Scroggy, DFCS, Matt Arthur, Rabun County Schools

**Others Attending:** Ember Bishop (First Lady’s Office), Helena Schneider (GOCF), Craig Detweiler, DECAL

| Agenda Issue               | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up |
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| <b>Opening Remarks</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                      |
|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal said we are here to serve the children of Georgia and we will do everything in our power to keep them safe, healthy and well from birth through adulthood.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal then introduced Ms. Ballard, Vice-Chairman of the Committee to the Cabinet.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                      |
| <b>Safe Sleep Campaign</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard updated the Cabinet on the Safe Sleep initiative that all Executive Committee Members have pledged to support. The Executive Committee unanimously signed their commitment to support the Georgia Children’s Safe Sleep Campaign, and have made it their mission to raise awareness throughout the State of Georgia to help prevent sleep related deaths.</li> <li>➤ Several agencies have issued press releases and have included safe sleep information on their websites.</li> <li>➤ October has been designated as Safe Sleep Awareness Month. Commissioner Fitzgerald from Department of Public Safety has been working on a joint effort with Richard Ward, from the GA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics coordinating a Safe Sleep Press Conference. The First Lady will launch the campaign at the press conference on October 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol on the North Wing Steps.</li> <li>➤ The First Lady requested we send out an announcement to all Cabinet Members with the press conference details.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard stressed the importance of sharing safe sleep promotional materials so that we can effectively</li> </ul> |                                      |

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|                                   | <p>communicate and distribute Cabinet initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Some examples of agency sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Office of the Child Advocate has created a safe sleep brochure that can be easily downloaded from their website.</li> <li>• The Department of Juvenile Justice has a safe sleep poster on their website that can be downloaded as well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
|                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard shared with the Cabinet a newly created Hallmark Card that will be sent to new mothers across Georgia. This decorative card contains a special message from the Governor and Mrs. Deal congratulating parents on the birth of their child. Their message is simple: immunize their newborns to keep them healthy and well.</li> <li>➤ The Hallmark Card Company donated 75,000 cards for free to the State of Georgia as part of their “For America’s Babies” program.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard has asked the Cabinet to show their support, by distributing the Hallmarks cards across the State. We aim to reach as many new mother’s as possible and educate them on best practices for the wellbeing of their children. Ms. Ballard stated the Cabinet is open to all suggestions where we should send these cards.</li> <li>➤ The Cabinet will distribute them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies</li> <li>• Hospitals</li> <li>• First Steps Home Visitation Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| <p><b>Unified Data System</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard discussed the Unified Data System with the Council, and their commitment to improve outcomes for children and families in Georgia by sharing critical information among state and local partners. She stated the goal is to interface these systems so they can easily communicate with each other.</li> <li>➤ The Cabinet members also discussed the importance of integrating and screening information as early as possible so that we can best serve our children.</li> <li>➤ Educational outcomes have been targeted as it directly relates and influences Georgia’s graduation rates.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal noted this initiative will help with school records, and give critical information to the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Court System so they can make the best decisions for our youth.</li> <li>➤ Educational Outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance</li> <li>• Achievement</li> <li>• Behavior</li> <li>• Grades</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal commented that many foster children have experienced delays registering to a new school because their records were not transmitted automatically; in fact, paper</li> </ul> |  |

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|                | <p>records were known to take up to 7 or 8 days. This affects many of our foster children because they are shifted to different schools depending on where they are living. This has created absenteeism as well as considerable stress on the child because they can fall behind on their classwork through no fault of their own, and never have the opportunity to catch up with their classmates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Cabinet will need to determine what data can be shared across state agencies. It is important that parameters and guidelines are identified by each agency, and information is properly secured so that confidential information does not fall in to the wrong hands. This must be reviewed from a legal aspect as well.</li> </ul> |  |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Since Commissioner Cagle was unable to attend today's Cabinet Meeting, Craig Detweiler from The Department of Early Care and Learning "DECAL" presented an update on current State Advisory Council projects that will be continued under the Children's Cabinet. He provided the Cabinet with a detailed folder that included the background and overview of current goals and objectives.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr. Detweiler also presented a proposal from The Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Council) to contract with the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The proposal's objective is to improve program oversight and monitoring in order to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Georgia's statewide child care resources and referral agency network.</li> <li>➤ After much discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Reese. The Cabinet voted unanimously in favor to support this program.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             |  |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard reminded the Cabinet they will be meeting three times a year. The next Full Cabinet meeting will be Thursday, January 17, 2013.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| <b>Adjourn</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal thanked the Cabinet members for their attendance and welcomed their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
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