

**Georgia Children's Cabinet**  
**Thursday, July 19, 2012 - Minutes**  
**8:00 AM - 9:30 AM**  
**The Governor's Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA**

**Attendees:** First Lady Sandra Deal, Eric John (CJCJ), Dr. Frank Shelp (DBHDD), David Cook (DCH), Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Clyde Reese (DHS), L. Gale Buckner (DJJ), Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH) Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services), Bonnie Holliday (GOSA) Tonya Boga (OCA)

**Members Not Attending:** Dr. John Barge (DOE)

**Others Attending:** Ember Bishop (First Lady's Office), Judge Poole (CJCJ), Mark Waits (DECAL) Bart Gobeil (Governor's Office), Jeff Strane (Governor's Office), Kristin Bernard (Governor's Office) Helena Schneider (GOCF)

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up
<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 announced to the Cabinet members that Governor Deal will not be joining the Cabinet meeting today and will not be co-hosting future Cabinet meetings. Mrs. Deal will continue to host the Cabinet leadership meetings as an advocate for the children of Georgia.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Deal introduced our new cabinet member, Bonnie Holliday, Executive Director for the Governor's Office for Student Achievement.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal told the Cabinet that today was Commissioner Shelp's last Cabinet meeting. She thanked him for his service, dedication, and all the hard work that he has done for children's services.</li> <li>➤ Judge Gregory Poole introduced himself to the Cabinet. He is the new President for the Council of Court Judges.</li> <li>➤ Mr. Gobeil and Mr. Strane from the Governor's Office introduced themselves to the Cabinet. They came to the Cabinet meeting to discuss the Strategic Planning Framework that will support the achievement of the Governor's strategic goals. Those highlights are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State indicators and strategies</li> <li>• Agency strategic plans</li> <li>• Agency performance reports</li> <li>• COO, CFO &amp; OPB will evaluate plans and monitor progress on state goals</li> <li>• The strategic planning framework will be cascaded to our agencies and constituents.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Strane stated that the Governor has 26 goals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal stressed the importance of the Cabinet working</li> </ul>	

	<p>to achieve the Governor’s goals and priorities. She commented that the hardest part will be measuring our goals against our performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Ballard thanked Mr. Gobeil for meeting with the Cabinet. She stated the Cabinet is here to meet the Governor’s goals and deliverables. Ms. Ballard noted that we are fortunate to have the Cabinet as our vehicle with the First Lady as our leader.</li> <li>• Mr. Gobeil thanked the Cabinet. He also thanked Commissioner Shelp for all he has done for DBHDD.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Safe Sleep Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard presented the Cabinet with a few versions of potential posters and brochures for our Safe Sleep Campaign.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Buckner stated the Department of Juvenile Justice displays safe sleep poster in 92 of their offices across the state as well as their juvenile justice locations. The Juvenile Justice Staff is excited to be part of this initiative.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Reese stressed to the Cabinet that co-sleeping is an avoidable death. The Department of Human Services and the Division of Family and Children Services have reviewed their reports and have determined that 20 to 30% of deaths are due to co-sleeping instead of sleeping alone in their beds. Commissioner Reese told the Cabinet that he has collaborated on the safe sleep initiative with Commissioner Buckner and Ms. Ballard.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle stated that SIDS and other sleep related deaths are the leading cause of fatalities in pre-K programs.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard asked the Cabinet to sign the Georgia Children’s Cabinet Safe Sleep Campaign signifying their commitment. All Cabinet Members signed the document.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard stated we need to finalize our poster for the Safe Sleep Campaign, and align what our agencies are currently doing. We will add the Commissioner’s Poster from Public Safety to the Cabinet website and create a press release.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard told the Cabinet that the updated Mandated Reporter training will be uploaded to the Governor’s Office for Children and Families website next week. The training takes two hours, and is free on line. She commented that the Department of Parks and Recreation called her - they will train over 30,000 volunteers throughout the state.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Boga noted that the Faith Community has also expressed an interest in being trained.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard stated that Darkness to Light training will be provided free to state agencies. She noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 600 people will be trained.</li> <li>○ All GOCF grantees will be trained.</li> <li>○ Darkness to Light training sessions can train up to 50 people at one time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard thanked the Cabinet for their involvement with the Unified Data System. Updates are to come.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cabinet Structure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard provided the following handouts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cabinet meeting schedule detailing the new structure.</li> <li>○ List of potential members for the newly combined Advisory Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The yellow spots indicate open appointment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Judge Poole stated that as President of the Juvenile Court Judges he would like to delegate this responsibility to Judge Whitfield. Judge Poole further commented that the position as President of the Juvenile Court Judges is for a one year terms – each year, the President is selected from the various counties throughout Georgia. He asked that Judge Whitfield remain with the Cabinet for consistency purposes besides his eagerness and commitment to the Cabinet.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal commented that we are looking for suggestions for open members. She said that we must keep these discussions confidential. Governor Deal needs to approve potential members before an offer can be extended.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal asked the Cabinet to pass on any suggestions for our open members including Senators, Representatives, etc.</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal reminded the Cabinet that we have two months to finalize our membership list, and have the new Executive Order in place.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DECAL Presentation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle presented on the Department of Early Care and Learning’s Early Childhood Advisory Council projects to the Cabinet.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle provided the Cabinet with a handout that overviewed the history and the purpose of the Council.</li> <li>➤ Historical Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Council was created in September 2009 by Executive Order.</li> <li>○ Department of Early Care and Learning: lead agency</li> <li>○ Funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2010.</li> <li>○ The new Executive Order from Governor Deal in 2011</li> <li>○ Total grants: \$3,640,589</li> <li>○ Grant Period ends: May 21, 2013</li> <li>○ Council merged into Children’s Cabinet in 2012</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Membership must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agency responsible for child care</li> <li>○ State education agency</li> <li>○ Local education agency</li> <li>○ Higher education</li> <li>○ Local Provider</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Head State</li> <li>○ Head Start State Collaboration Direction</li> <li>○ Agency responsible to programs under 619 or Part C</li> <li>○ Agency responsible for health/mental health care</li> <li>○ Can include other members at the Governor's Discretion</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle stated having the Cabinet in place is an added bonus. Merging the two meetings will also help to cut back on the number of meetings scheduled.</li> <li>➤ The Councils goal will be to develop a comprehensive plan for early childhood education and care to serve Georgia's children and families in a more coordinated, efficient manner and improve outcomes for Georgia's children so when they start school they are ready to learn.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle stated they worked with the North Highland Group to collect, coordinate and unify data systems from a variety of organizations. The Head Start Providers have all signed up on the data system and will be feeding in to one data system. The goals are to look at quality, and achieve better outcomes and measures for our schools. He introduced Mark Waits who is managing this grant, and will work with the Governor's Office for Children and Families to help manage administrative duties for the Children's Cabinet.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal noted the importance of training teachers with the new early learning standards. The goal is to provide more effective training so that our children can successfully learn how to read.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Ballard asked the Cabinet to let her know if they have anything that they would like to have posted on the Cabinet's website. Currently, the Cabinet website is a tab on the Governor's Office for Children and Families website.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mrs. Deal asked the Cabinet if there were any needs or issues that the Cabinet would like to address or comment on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Buckner commented on her collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education. She told the Cabinet they have made great progress with Superintendent Barge tying educational information from both school systems.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Buckner stated that due to cutbacks in programming, she could use the Cabinet's suggestions and ideas for potential programs for the kids in the facilities - especially for the evening and weekends.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cook stated they are excited about Medicaid's Obesity Initiative and the Wellness Plan, as well as collecting BMI data which helps to further evaluate these issues.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Reese stated the Department of Family and Children Services is focusing on child safety and reducing the number of children in foster care. The agencies goal is to provide the safest environment for these children. They have a child welfare practice model in place that also helps to track these children. The Commissioner also discussed the agency is working on a plan that will rebalance their staff, with an emphasis of using technology to free up staff members current responsibilities.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Reese noted the importance of providing alternative programs for fathers that have been delinquent in providing child support instead of incarcerating them. The emphasis would be on helping these fathers with employment and education so they have the ability and means to support their children.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Reese also noted an increase in children taking care of their parents, and commented that Elder abuse is on the rise. He stated the importance of protecting seniors.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Fitzgerald discussed the Child Obesity Launch that the Department of Public Safety has been working on.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle stressed the importance of proper food and activity.</li> <li>➤ Judge Poole noted that they have worked with the Department of Family and Children Service on differential response.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Cagle stated the Pre-K Program is now on their 20<sup>th</sup> year in the State. He also discussed collaborating with Commissioner Fitzgerald on their ongoing safety measures during the summer. One of the most important preventative measures is to remind the public not to leave their children in heated cars. Children can quickly overheat, and die.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Holliday mentioned that the Governor’s Office for Student Achievements involvement with projects from Pre-K to Graduate School. They have collaborated with the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Student Finance Commissioner and the GA Professional Standards Commission.</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Shelp mentioned collaborating with Commissioner Cagle on autism. As the Cabinet has discussed, autism is on the rise, and doesn’t fit in with conventional programs. The Commissioners’ recently visited the Marcus Institute whose specialty is working with autistic children.</li> <li>➤ Ms. Boga stated the Office of the Child Advocate is</li> </ul>	
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	<p>continuing to have their monthly Child Fatality Review training focusing on SIDS death. Ms. Boga also told the Cabinet about an additional training recently introduced called the Forensic Interviewing of Children Training. This training has been updated and restructured to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interviewing children</li> <li>• full legal day</li> </ul> <p>➤ Ms. Boga will be traveling to DC at the end of August for a Think Tank meeting. The purpose is to review how the different states review children’s deaths.</p> <p>➤ Ms. Ballard had noted the Cabinet discussed possible training through the Georgia Bureau of Investigation back in January. She informed the Cabinet that Vernon Keenan, Director at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation will be coordinating Law Enforcement Training at Jekyll Island this fall. They will be including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children’s issues</li> <li>○ CSEC</li> <li>○ Mandated Reporter Training</li> <li>○ Jail Monitoring</li> </ul>	
	<p>➤ Ms. Ballard reminded the Cabinet that our next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2012. This will be our first full Cabinet Meeting.</p>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>➤ Mrs. Deal thanked the Cabinet members for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.</p>	