

**Georgia Children's Cabinet
Full Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 15th, 2014 - Minutes
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM**

Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA

Attendees: First Lady Sandra Deal, Director Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Commissioner Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Erin Hames (Governor's Office), Bonnie Holliday (SCSC), Commissioner Keith Horton (DHS), Martha Ann Todd (GOSA), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services Ombudsman), Rep. Katie Dempsey (HD 13), Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ), Commissioner Clyde Reese (DCH), Dr. Ashley Willcott (OCA)

Stephanie Blank (Blank Foundation), Donna Hyland (CHOA), Josephine Reed-Taylor (TCSG), Richard Ward (American Academy of Pediatrics), Pat Willis (Voices), Evelyn Johnson (American Academy of Pediatrics), Danielle Cotton (Parent Representative)

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. John Barge (DOE), Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD), Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH), Eric John (CJCJ), Karen White (Moody AFB), Amy Carter (HD 175), Senator Renee Unterman (SD 45), Tony Foskey (Local Provider), Judge Jim Whitfield (Presiding Judge Cobb County Juvenile Court), Pedro Cherry (Georgia Power), Matt Arthur (Rabun County Schools), Janice Haker (State Director of Head Start Collaboration), Robert Anderson (University System of Georgia)

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

Agenda Issue	Discussion
Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The meeting was called to order by First Lady Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made. ➤ First Lady Deal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16th, 2014 Full committee meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The minutes were approved.
Race to the Top: Early Learning Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal called upon Commissioner Bobby Cagle to present his report on the Early Learning Grant component of the Race to the Top fund. ➤ Commissioner Cagle began his presentation by mentioning how Georgia received 400 million dollars in the Race to the Top (RTTT). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He went on to mention that 51.7 million of the 400 million dollars is devoted to early learning. He stated that Georgia is the only state in the country that has devoted part of their K-12 RTTT funds to early learning. ➤ Commissioner Cagle voiced that the grant is intended to help build and strengthen existing early learning systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One of the main focuses of the program is to increase the number of children with high needs attending high quality early learning and development programs. ➤ Commissioner Cagle mentioned that Georgia's Pre-K Program and the Quality Rating System were highlighted in the grant application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Georgia's grant application received the second highest score during the review process. Georgia received the highest amount of funding. ➤ DECAL will anchor the governance of the early learning grant. The Children's Cabinet will serve as an advisory group for the grant.

- There will also be an advisory committee. This committee will include representatives from each one of the state agencies who collaborated in the application. The committee will also include some early educators who will provide insight on measures that will help the workforce become better educators.
- Commissioner Cagle also mentioned the commitment made in the grant application to provide funding for families to be able to participate in the advisory committee. The funding will cover the expenses for the family representatives to travel to Atlanta and participate in the advisory committee. Commissioner Cagle stressed the importance of their input.
- Commissioner Cagle continued his presentation by giving an overview of the 12 Early Learning Challenge Projects that are outlined in the grant.
 - ❖ The 12 projects cover five distinct aspects of early learning improvement: successful state systems, high-quality programs, promoting early learning outcomes, great workforce, and measuring outcomes and progress.
 - ❖ The successful state systems aspect covers how the grant will be managed. The high-quality programs area is focused on improving the Quality Rating System. The promoting early learning outcomes aspect deals with refining standards. The great workforce component is intended to promote workforce competency. Finally, the measuring outcomes and progress projects will work to understand and utilize information found in a comprehensive assessment system.
- Commissioner Cagle touched one incentivizing aspect of the grant. The grant will try to increase the number of families choosing higher quality programs by decreasing co-pays for high-quality programs.
 - ❖ i.e. the co-pay for a three star Quality Rated program will be less than the co-pay for a two star program
- The grant also aims to push for a drastic increase the number of programs participating in the Quality Rated System. Commissioner Cagle intends for 100% of programs to be enrolled by 2017.
- Commissioner Cagle also mentioned the inclusion of home visiting initiatives in the grant. Commissioner Cagle thanked Director Katie Jo Ballard and GOCF for helping to expand home visiting programs through the grant.
- Commissioner Cagle mentioned a Comprehensive Assessment Task Force that will be established in order to create a set of assessments that can be used across organizations. DPH will co-chair this task force.
- One of the projects found in the grant will work to supplement a Unified Data System. This system will expand the Cross Agency Child Data System (CACDS) by pooling additional data from DOE, DPH, and DHS.
- Commissioner Cagle also relayed that the second phase of the ongoing Pre-K study showed that students enrolled in Georgia Pre-K programs had significant gains in language, literacy, and mathematics compared to children who were not enrolled.

<p>Monthly Highlights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal directed everyone’s attention to the next order of business, the upcoming monthly highlights. ➤ Ms. Hayley Howell spoke about the Junior Achievement visit directly following the Cabinet meeting. The visit is part of May’s Youth Employment focus. The recently opened Junior Achievement center, located in the Georgia World Congress Center, gives middle school aged children the opportunity to learn the importance of financial literacy and budgeting in a real world setting. ➤ Next, the First Lady opened the floor for discussion on initiatives for June’s Parent Engagement month. ➤ Director Ballard mentioned the water safety campaign will be a component of parent engagement month. There will be an event in June to kick off the campaign. ➤ Ms. Stephanie Blank asked if there will be any June initiatives directed at summer reading loss. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Cagle mentioned a joint project between DECAL and the state library system. The project is called ‘Get Georgia Reading’ and provides healthy meals to children in libraries across the state. ❖ DECAL also has 60 sites across the state that are providing summer transition programs aimed at helping children prepare for Kindergarten. ❖ DECAL also has a program focused on assisting 3 year olds who are coming into the Pre-K system and are from a non-English speaking background. ➤ Ms. Donna Hyland mentioned that food deprivation is a huge issue for a lot of children. She suggested possibly compiling a list of resources where parents can find food for their children during the summer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Representative Katie Dempsey suggested Boys and Girls Clubs as a potential resource for food and extended learning. ➤ Commissioner Horton spoke about DHS’s EPAC program. This program is a tutoring service for foster care children. ➤ Ms. Pat Willis cited the Parent Café “Strengthen Families” training program as an initiative the Cabinet could reach out to help for Parental Engagement Month. ➤ Commissioner Cagle mentioned a program called ‘Parent University’ that is run by the Savannah Rotary Club. He mentioned that the Savannah Rotary Club has been focused on early learning initiatives for several years. He stated that the Savannah Rotary Club believes it is essential for parents to understand proper parenting skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Cagle said that ‘Parent University’ helps hundreds of families each year. ❖ Ms. Blank stated that Paul Fisher is the contact for the program ❖ Commissioner Cagle said he would call Paul Fisher and plan a visit in June if we would like ❖ Ms. Donna Hyland voiced that working with the Savannah Rotarians on a project like ‘Parent University’ could spur more chapters into participating.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Erin Hames suggested developing a curriculum for parental engagement to give to organizations like the Rotary Club. She also felt that one aspect that the Cabinet could help with would be promotion. ➤ Ms. Donna Hyland suggested packaging and promoting all of the materials for parents out there for easier access, especially digitally ➤ Ms. Ember Bishop suggested connecting the parental engagement information with the ‘Great Start Georgia’ campaign. ➤ Commissioner Horton mentioned that even though there is a wealth of information for parents available on the Internet, it can be hard for some parents to find. He voiced that the Cabinet should work to make parental engagement information more visible. He agreed with Ms. Hames’ thoughts on promotion. ➤ Director Katie Jo Ballard mentioned a pilot project that GOCHF worked on at a Pre-K in Milledgeville. In this project GOCHF created a parental engagement program for the parents. Over a three year period, GOCHF saw increases in the center’s Pre-K assessment test scores. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Director Ballard mentioned that if GOCHF had known about ‘Parent University’ they may have been able to pull those resources rather than creating their own program from scratch. ❖ Director Ballard felt that it would be great to establish a medium where organizations can share existing resources with parents. ➤ First Lady Deal mentioned an incentive provided at ‘Sheltering Arms’ preschool where parents could get a discount on their child’s tuition if they participated in weekly parental engagement programs. ➤ In reference to July Immunization Month, Dr. Evelyn Johnson brought the new immunization regulations to the Cabinet’s attention. She stated that all 7th graders have to have Meningococcal and Tdap vaccines. ➤ In reference to August Juvenile Justice Month, Director Ballard voiced the progress of the alternatives to detention grants. So far a vast majority of the grants are showing numbers well above expectations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Commissioner Niles commented on DJJ’s excitement about having more resources out in the community.
<p>Water Safety Subcommittee Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The First Lady transitioned the meeting to the Water Safety Subcommittee Report. ➤ Director Ballard thanked everyone who was able to participate in the water safety subcommittee. ➤ Director Ballard stated that the subcommittee came up with the idea of a SPLASH campaign. The SPLASH campaign is intended to encompass aspects of water safety for both children and teenagers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Director Ballard mentioned using the ‘Water Watcher Badge’ that CHOA created for the supervision component of the SPLASH campaign. ➤ Ms. Blank suggested working with the Insurance Commissioner’s Office to market the campaign. ➤ Ms. Bishop mentioned the Cabinet could work the Georgia Association of Broadcasters to create PSAs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Director Willcott suggested utilizing movie theaters. ❖ Director Ballard stated the Department of Driver Services has offered advertisement space on their televisions. ➤ Ms. Hyland suggested working with Bea Perez at Coca Cola. Bea is in the

	<p>community outreach department. She thinks they would be able to provide a lot of resources and possibly be able to create a spot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Director Ballard showed the Cabinet a copy of <i>The Polar Bear Who Couldn't, Wouldn't Swim</i> created by The Zac Foundation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ She stated that the Cabinet will distribute copies of the book to early care centers and libraries across the state. ❖ Representative Dempsey suggested utilizing General Assembly members to deliver the books to centers. She felt that it could draw local media attention to the cause.
GOCF Restructuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Director Ballard spoke about the upcoming changes to the Governor's Office for Children and Families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Governor wants to change the office from being a grant administering organization to a policy and budget alignment organization between the child serving agencies. ❖ The new goal of GOCF is to work with the child serving agencies to make sure all of our services are aligned by establishing shared measurements and eliminating duplication.
Announcements and Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Cagle voiced that on May 27th the Governor and First Lady will help DECAL kick off a summer heat safety campaign called 'Look Again'. The event will be held at 10 AM in the North Wing of the Capitol. ➤ Commissioner Cagle also announced that there will be an event for Race to the Top at the Governor's Mansion on June 17th between 3 and 5 PM. ➤ Ms. Blank stated that the Frontiers of Innovation program has received a large grant from the Fuqua Foundation.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Lady Deal concluded the meeting and thanked the Cabinet members for their attendance and participation. ➤ The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

