

Georgia Children's Cabinet
Thursday, May 17, 2012 - Minutes
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
The Governor's Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA

Members Attending in Person: First Lady Sandra Deal, Eric John (CJCJ), Dr. Frank Shelp (DBHDD), David Cook (DCH), Clyde Reese (DHS), L. Gale Buckner (DJJ), Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services), Tonya Boga (OCA)

Members Attending by Phone: Judge Edwards (CJCJ), Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH)

Members Not Attending: Dr. John Barge (DOE), Ron Scroggy (DFCS)

Others Attending: Ember Bishop (First Lady's Office), Kristin Bernard (Office of the Governor) Helena Schneider (GOCF), Lauren Holstein (GOCF)

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up
Opening Remarks	➤ The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made.	
Safe Sleep Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Ballard began the meeting by discussing the possibility of creating a Georgia State-wide Safe Sleep Campaign. In April, Ms. Ballard met with Commissioner Fitzgerald, Ms. Boga and Ms. Herron to brainstorm on the safe sleeping initiative. At that meeting, Ms. Boga provided the safe sleep brochure created by the Office of Child Advocate. ➤ Ms. Ballard also spoke with Commissioner Reese about the safe sleeping initiative. She met with the Department of Human Services Communications Team to work on a joint effort for this campaign. Their communications team has been working with the media to publicly get the word out on the dangers of co-sleeping. They have worked with Andy Miller from the Georgia Health News as well as Fox Five News. ➤ Several of the state agencies have already included safe sleeping and SIDS information on their website including: Office of the Child Advocate, Department of Public Safety, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, etc. ➤ Commissioner Reese noted that sleep deaths are a major concern for the Department of Human Services. As he put it, with the proper education, many of these deaths would be preventable. The Department of Human Services are working to promote safe sleeping measures as well as promoting water safety and sun safety measures now that the summer months are approaching. ➤ Commissioner Buckner stated we need to stamp out all sleep related deaths, and continue to collect and provide educational materials on this subject as well as apply for grants to help create awareness programs for mothers. ➤ Ms. Boga discussed sharing the safe sleep brochure with 	

	<p>several of the main hospitals in order to promote this initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The First Lady suggested that we create safe sleeping posters and have them prominently displayed in offices, bathrooms, hallways, etc. ➤ Ms. Ballard asked the Cabinet if they would like to add the Safe Sleep Campaign as a Cabinet initiative. The Cabinet was unanimous in their agreement to add this initiative. 	
Integrated Data System	<p>Ms. Ballard thanked the agencies for attending the Georgia Department of Education longitudinal data system in April. She asked the Cabinet for their suggestions for their next steps to create an integrated data system for displaced youth.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Ballard informed the Cabinet that the Department of Education is working to obtain passwords which will allow access to the data system as well as integrate data into the juvenile court system. ➤ The Department of Education and the Department of Juvenile Justice are currently working to automate youth education data, and plan to have this transitioned by fall. ➤ Commissioner Reese also noted the importance of case workers having access to foster students' records in order to best serve these children. ➤ Commissioner Buckner informed the Cabinet that the Department of Juvenile Justice is currently working to centralize their medical information on line. ➤ Commissioner Shelp noted that integrating medical records might have numerous challenges – part if this is directly related to Medicaid and HIPPA disclosure laws. ➤ Mrs. Deal stated the need to implement guidelines to ensure that confidential information is accessible to the appropriate parties. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Ballard commented on the plight of youth sent to juvenile detention facilities by juvenile court judges when there were alternative options to better serve this group. ➤ Commissioner Buckner stated that the vast majority of kids sent to the Department of Juvenile Justice are unruly children that are sent to their agency because the judge believes that nothing can be done to help these children. They are taking up bed space costing taxpayers' \$240 per day. As she put it, we really need to find a better alternative for these children. ➤ Several of the Cabinet Members agreed that our judges need to be better educated so they can provide the most suitable options available to better serve our youth. ➤ Ms. Ballard asked Mr. John if judges received educational training. Mr. John replied that judges need to take 12 hours of training that are broken down into 2 seminars a year. Mr. John told the Cabinet that an Accountability Seminar was recently approved. They are also looking to provide additional educational programs due to increased interest in 	

	<p>that area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs. Deal stated the importance of preventative measures rather than the cure. She told the Cabinet that education and proper guidance is one of the best strategies to help our youth. 	
<p>Discussion and Vote Pertaining to Council and Cabinet Consolidation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Bernhard discussed the details of consolidating the Early Childhood Advisory Council with the First Lady’s Cabinet. ➤ These details included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the Children’s Cabinet divide itself into two separate groups. • One group would be the Executive Children’s Cabinet comprised solely of the 14 agency heads that work with children. • The Executive Cabinet would first meet to discuss core items that should be discussed at the full meeting. This group would be responsible for the execution of all of the Cabinet goals, with a special focus on cross-agency collaboration to build more effective and efficient state systems. ➤ After the first meeting in the Dining Room at the Governor’s Mansion, the second meeting would take place. ➤ This group would comprise of 28 members including agency heads that work with children, as well as community stakeholders from education, business, judicial, philanthropic, and legislative communities. ➤ Ms. Bernhard stated that we could work out the specifics including the structure and timeline for the joint meetings. ➤ The first full cabinet meeting will take place at the Governor’s Mansion on Thursday, September 20, 2012. ➤ Ms. Ballard stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Cabinet would still reside under the Governor’s Office for Children and Families with the First Lady chairing the Cabinet and the State Advisory Council continuing cabinet initiatives. ➤ Mrs. Deal asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the consolidation. She discussed the importance of the Governor receiving information from the Commissioners first hand, and stressed the importance of having a leadership group led by leadership with our Commissioners attending as heads of state versus sending in their secondary leaders. ➤ The Cabinet discussed the pros and cons of the merger, and ultimately determined that it would be beneficial to merge the two groups together as one organization in order to best serve the children of Georgia. ➤ The Cabinet voted unanimously for the merger. ➤ Our first Executive Cabinet meeting will be held July 19, 2012. 	

Adjourn	➤ Mrs. Deal thanked the Cabinet members for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.	
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