

GEORGIA
CHILDREN'S
CABINET



ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020

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Executive Summary

Introduction

On June 12, 2019, Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp issued an executive order appointing the Georgia Children’s Cabinet. The Georgia Children’s Cabinet (the Cabinet) was charged with supporting a “sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve children and families in each region of our state.” The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) was named the lead fiscal agency for the Cabinet, and as such, the Cabinet was transferred to the agency. First Lady Marty Kemp serves as Honorary Chair of the Cabinet, and DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs and the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement Executive Director Joy Hawkins serve as co-chairs.

The executive order also appointed executive and full Cabinet members, as shown in Tables 1 and 2 below. Appendix A contains the full executive order.

Table 1. List of Executive Cabinet Members

MEMBERS	AGENCY
FRANK BERRY	Georgia Department of Community Health
ROBYN CRITTENDEN	Georgia Department of Human Services
RACHEL DAVIDSON	Office of the Child Advocate
JUDY FITZGERALD	Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
JOY HAWKINS	Governor’s Office of Student Achievement
AMY M. JACOBS	Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
ERIC JOHN	Council of Juvenile Court Judges
JAY NEAL	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
TYRONE OLIVER	Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
JAVIER I. PICO PRATS	Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
TOM RAWLINGS	Division of Family and Children Services
J. THOMAS RATCHFORD III	Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
KATHLEEN TOOMEY	Georgia Department of Public Health
RICHARD WOODS	Georgia Department of Education

Table 2. List of Full Cabinet Members

MEMBERS	AGENCY
PATTY BENTLEY	Georgia House of Representatives
MINDY BINDERMAN	Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
AMANDA BURT	United Way of Northwest Georgia
MELISSA CARTER	Barton Child Law and Policy Center
KATIE DEMPSEY	Georgia House of Representatives
TRISTAN DENLEY	University System of Georgia
ERICA FENER-SITKOFF	Voices for Georgia’s Children
JOANNA HILL	Bright Promises Children’s Center
SUSAN HOLMES	Georgia House of Representatives
MICHELLE SMITH LANK	Kids World Learning Center
MILTON J. LITTLE, JR.	United Way of Greater Atlanta
GEORGE MCCANLESS	United Way of Central Georgia
NORIS PRICE	Baldwin County Schools
TEVIN J. ROBERTS	Georgia Head Start Association
ALLISON SETTERLIND	Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Office
FREDDIE POWELL SIMS	Georgia Senate
GAYE SMITH	Georgia Family Connection Partnership
BLAKE TILLERY	Georgia Senate
MARTHA ANN TODD	Technical College System of Georgia
RICHARD WARD	Georgia Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics
VONDA WOODALL	Winder-Barrow High School

Strategic Vision and Priority Goal Areas

The University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government facilitated a strategic planning meeting on September 6, 2019, with the full Cabinet. During the meeting, Cabinet members articulated their strategic vision for the purpose, approach, and priority goal areas for the Cabinet (see Appendix B). The strategic vision was drafted that day and formally approved at the January 7, 2020, full Cabinet meeting. The purpose of the Cabinet is to “support a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve the children and families in each region of our state.” The Cabinet agreed that the members should take a comprehensive, systematic, and whole-family approach to ensure children are and feel safe, are healthy, are learning, and are prepared for adulthood.

The Cabinet identified four priority goal areas:

1. Safety: Children (ages 0-18) are and feel safe
2. Healthy: Children (ages 0-18) have a healthy start
3. Literacy: Children (ages 0-18) are literate in reading and math
4. Two-Generation Approach: Whole-family and system approach to policy and service delivery

The Cabinet developed the following strategies and actions to help meet each of these priority goal areas:

1. Safety:
 - A. Define safety and how to measure it;
 - B. Inventory current child safety-related assessments, intake instruments, programs and services; and
 - C. Focus on trauma-responsive practices.
2. Healthy:
 - A. Develop and deploy a messaging campaign to increase vaccine use and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases;
 - B. Meet key developmental milestones through early intervention in maternal and infant health; and
 - C. Empower children to take responsibility for their own physical, social, and emotional health.
3. Literacy:
 - A. Support new teachers with strategies to address reading and math; and
 - B. Educate and support parents through community partners.
4. Two-Generation Approach:
 - A. Adopt two-generation principles across all agencies;
 - B. Identify barriers to program eligibility, access, and participation; and
 - C. Ensure front-line staff are better informed about state programs and services.

Meeting History

The Georgia Children’s Cabinet held its first full Cabinet meeting on June 18, 2019, and concluded its first year of service with an executive Cabinet meeting on March 3, 2020. Five meetings were held during the first year: two executive Cabinet meetings and three meetings with the full Cabinet. Members of the executive Cabinet also attended the full Cabinet meetings. Most of the meetings were held at the Governor’s Mansion in Atlanta. Facilitators from the Institute of Government facilitated all meetings. First Lady Marty Kemp serves as the honorary chair of the Children’s Cabinet. The Cabinet co-chairs are Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs and Executive Director Joy Hawkins.

Meetings were held on the following dates:

- Full Cabinet, June 18, 2019, 8:00 am-10:00 am, Governor’s Mansion, 391 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, Georgia

- Full Cabinet, September 6, 2019, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Goodwill Conference Center, 5171 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, Georgia
- Executive Cabinet, November 5, 2019, 8:00 am-10:00 am, Governor’s Mansion, 391 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, Georgia
- Full Cabinet, January 7, 2020, 8:00 am-10:00 am, Governor’s Mansion, 391 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, Georgia
- Executive Cabinet, March 3, 2020, 8:00 am-10:00 am, Governor’s Mansion, 391 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, Georgia

The initial full Georgia Children’s Cabinet meeting in June 2019 established the schedule for the full and executive Cabinet meetings throughout the year.

On September 6, 2019, the full Cabinet convened for a strategic planning meeting. Institute of Government facilitators led the members through a strategic planning session. During this meeting, members established the purpose, mission, and strategic priority areas for the Georgia Children’s Cabinet and identified possible strategies and activities to help accomplish the priority areas.

The executive Cabinet met on November 5, 2019. The executive Cabinet amended the strategic vision document based on member feedback. Actions items included the following:

- discussing subcommittees,
- scheduling a presentation about the United Way’s 211 system,
- coordinating speakers around the priority goal areas, and
- finalizing the strategic vision document.

The full Cabinet met again on January 7, 2020. The Cabinet reviewed the strategic vision document and, with minor changes to the purpose statement, formally approved it. Representative Katie Dempsey updated the Cabinet on the work of the House Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Health. Representative Kevin Tanner provided updates on the Behavioral Health Commission. United Way Vice President and 211 Director Donna Burnham also presented an update on the United Way 211 system. Action items discussed during the January meeting included the following:

- updating the 211 resource lists for agencies,
- developing an inventory of conferences and trainings to encourage cross-agency presentations and attendance, and
- developing an inventory of interagency groups that provide services for children and families related to the Cabinet priority goal areas.

The executive Cabinet met again on March 3, 2020. Commissioner Jacobs provided an update on Georgia’s Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five and the development of the Cross-Agency Child Council supported by the grant. Cabinet members proposed a two-generation event that would bring experts to the state to work with agency leaders and front-line staff to build awareness about the two-generation approach. The interagency inventory and conference inventory instruments were presented to the Cabinet for approval. Finally, the Institute of Government led a brainstorming activity on key indicators for each priority area for the Cabinet to monitor. Action items addressed during the March meeting included the following:

- distributing the interagency and conference inventory instruments to Cabinet members,
- developing a Georgia Children’s Cabinet website for Cabinet members to share research and Cabinet documents, and
- further discussing key indicators at the next Cabinet meeting.

The full Cabinet was scheduled to meet on May 7, 2020. This meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent scheduling conflicts.

Cabinet Research and Achievements

Over the past year, the Cabinet accomplished the following:

- successfully developed a strategic vision and priority goal areas on which the state will focus over the next four years,
- began building a new website that will be hosted by DECAL, and
- sponsored two research projects conducted by the Institute of Government:
 - to identify existing collaborative and interagency teams, and
 - to identify conferences and trainings held by partner agencies throughout the state.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

One of the Cabinet’s goals for the first year was to conduct a strategic planning meeting with the full Cabinet. This meeting was held on September 6, 2019. The goal of the meeting was to develop the Cabinet’s purpose, mission, and goals to guide the work over the upcoming four years. During the meeting members drafted a strategic vision document that was revised and discussed at the November 5, 2019, executive Cabinet meeting and then presented at the January 7, 2020, full Cabinet meeting, where it was formally approved.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

DECAL is working on a website that will be a central repository for Cabinet documents and shared work products. The website will provide a specific place for Cabinet members to share and access research and other helpful information related to Cabinet priorities.

RESEARCH

The Cabinet approved two research projects conducted by the Institute of Government:

- an inventory of current collaborative and interagency teams, and
- an inventory of conferences and trainings held by partner agencies in the state.

Inventory of Interagency Teams and Collaboratives

The Institute of Government is conducting an inventory of existing interagency teams currently working on behalf of Georgia’s children and families. The goal of this research is to minimize duplication of efforts and to provide Cabinet members with the broad landscape of existing work being done by agencies. The inventory survey was presented to the executive Cabinet on March 3, 2020, and was approved to be sent via email to the full Cabinet. The 13-question survey launched to the full Cabinet on March 6, 2020. Email reminders were sent on March 30, 2020, April 20, 2020, and May 5, 2020. Overall, **12** respondents have completed the inventory and **27** interagency teams and collaboratives have been identified. All 27 interagency teams and collaboratives address at least one of the Cabinet’s identified priority areas (e.g., healthy children, safety, literacy, or two-generation). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the inventory remains in the field for the remaining respondents to complete as time allows; it is anticipated that this research will be ongoing. Appendix C contains a copy of the survey.

Cross-Agency Training Opportunities

The second research activity is an inventory of upcoming conferences and training opportunities available for interagency attendance and presentations. The inventory was developed to inform the Cabinet of existing opportunities for interagency collaboration and shared learning. The 10-question inventory was presented to the executive Cabinet on March 3, 2020, and was approved to be sent to the full Cabinet. The survey launched on March 6, 2020 to the full Cabinet. Email reminders were sent on March 30, 2020, April 20, 2020, and May 5, 2020. Overall, **6** respondents have completed the inventory, and the following **3** conferences/trainings were identified:

- The Summit: Georgia’s Child Welfare Conference,
- Georgia’s Afterschool and Youth Development Conference, and
- Georgia System of Care Academy.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the inventory remains in the field for the remaining respondents to complete as time allows; it is anticipated that the pandemic will affect conference and training availability throughout the upcoming year. Appendix C contains a copy of the inventory instrument.

Year 2 Plans

INDICATORS

The Cabinet has proposed developing key indicators to guide the strategic vision and priority goal areas. An initial facilitated brainstorming session with the executive Cabinet was held on March 3, 2020. These indicators will provide a lens through which the Cabinet will monitor progress being made in the priority goal areas of safety, healthy, literacy, and two-generation work. During the March 3 brainstorming session, the executive Cabinet developed a list of indicators for each priority goal area. It is expected that this work will continue over the next year.

TWO-GENERATION FORUM/CONFERENCE

The Cabinet has proposed holding a two-phase event in the next year (2020-2021) focused on building awareness of two-generation work in Georgia. During the first phase of the event, experts from Ascend at the Aspen Institute would hold a one-day summit with Cabinet members to provide examples and best practices from other states currently doing two-generation work. The goal would be to build awareness of the two-generation approach, strategies, and organization. The second phase of the event would bring front-line staff to a summit to build awareness of best practices and uses of two-generation work in the field.

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Governor Brian P. Kemp Executive Order



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

APPOINTING THE GEORGIA CHILDREN'S CABINET

WHEREAS: The Georgia Children's Cabinet (hereinafter, "Cabinet") is charged with supporting a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve children and families in each region of our state; and

WHEREAS: Currently, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is the lead fiscal agent for the Cabinet and holds responsibility for meeting the childcare and early education needs of our children and families.

Now, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the Cabinet is hereby transferred to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Cabinet shall include an Executive Children's Cabinet and a Full Children's Cabinet.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Executive Children's Cabinet shall be comprised of fourteen (14) members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

- Frank Berry, Georgia Department of Community Health
- Robyn Crittenden, Georgia Department of Human Services
- Rachel Davidson, Office of the Child Advocate
- Judy Fitzgerald, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Joy Hawkins, Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- Amy Jacobs, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Avery Niles, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
- Javier I. Pico Prats, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
- Tom Rawlings, Division of Family of Children Services
- J. Thomas Ratchford III, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
- Kathleen Toomey, Georgia Department of Public Health
- Richard Woods, Georgia Department of Education

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Full Children's Cabinet shall be comprised of twenty-one (21) members who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

- Patty Bentley, Georgia House of Representatives
- Mindy Binderman, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
- Amanda Burt, United Way of Northwest Georgia
- Melissa Carter, Barton Child Law and Policy Center
- Katie Dempsey, Georgia House of Representatives
- Tristan Denley, University System of Georgia
- Erica Fener-Sitkoff, Voices for Georgia's Children
- Joanna Hill, Bright Promises Children's Center
- Susan Holmes, Georgia House of Representatives
- Michelle Smith Lank, Kids World Learning Center
- Milton J. Little, Jr., United Way of Greater Atlanta
- George Mccanless, United Way of Central Georgia

- Noris Price, Baldwin County Schools
- Tevin J. Roberts, Georgia Head Start Association
- Allison Setterlind, Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office
- Freddie Powell Sims, Georgia Senate
- Gaye Smith, Georgia Family Connection Partnership
- Blake Tillery, Georgia Senate
- Martha Ann Todd, Technical College System of Georgia
- Richard Ward, Georgia Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
- Vonda Woodall, Winder-Barrow High School

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That First Lady Marty Kemp shall serve as Honorary Chair of the Cabinet with Co-Chairs Amy Jacobs and Joy Hawkins.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Cabinet shall produce regular reports of its activities and findings to the Governor, First Lady, and members of the public.

This 12th day of June, 2019.


GOVERNOR

Appendix B: Strategic Vision and Priority Goal Areas



STATE OF GEORGIA
Children's Cabinet

STATE OF GEORGIA CHILDREN'S CABINET

Purpose

"The Georgia Children's Cabinet is charged with supporting a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to best serve the children and families in each region of our state."

Governor Brian Kemp, Governor's Executive Order, 12 June 2019

Approach

Members of the Georgia Children's Cabinet will take a comprehensive, systematic, and whole-family approach to ensure children are and feel safe, are healthy, are learning, and are prepared for adulthood.

Goal Areas

Over the next four years, the Cabinet will focus our efforts in the following areas:

Safety	Healthy	Literacy	Two-Generation Approach
Children (0-18) are and feel safe	Children (0-18) have a healthy start	Children (0-18) are literate in reading and math	Ensuring a whole family and system approach to policy and service delivery
Strategies/Actions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define safety and how to measure it - Inventory current child safety-related assessments, intake instruments, programs, and services - Focus on trauma responsive practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and deploy a messaging campaign to increase vaccine use and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases - Meet key developmental milestones through early intervention in maternal and infant health - Empower children to take responsibility for their own physical, social, and emotional health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support new teachers with strategies to address reading and math - Educate and support parents through community partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt principles of 2 Gen across all agencies - Identify barriers to program eligibility, access, and participation - Make front-line staff better informed of state programs and services.

Appendix C: Interagency Collaborative and Conference Inventories

CHILDREN CABINET INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION SURVEY

On behalf of the Georgia Children’s Cabinet, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia is conducting a survey to document the various interagency teams and/or collaboratives that currently meet to coordinate state or local services for children and families.

This survey will ask you about the interagency teams and/or collaboratives in which your agency participates. For each interagency team and/or collaborative, please be prepared to provide the group name, coordinating agency, point of contact, group purpose, origination date, and agencies participating in the group. Before proceeding, please take a moment to collect this information.

Please provide your contact information and which agency you represent:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Agency _____

We would like to learn about the existing interagency groups and collaboratives that coordinate state or local services for children and families.

How many such interagency groups does your organization participate in? Please count **only** those interagency collaboratives where you know the primary point of contact and group purpose. (If none, please enter 0.)

What is the name of the {first/second/third...} interagency group or collaborative?

Which agency coordinates this group?

Who is the contact person for this group or collaborative?

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Title _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

What is the mission or purpose of this group?

What year did this group originate?

Does this **{first/second/third...}** group have a documented plan available?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Does this group have any reports available?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

With which Children's Cabinet goal area(s) does this group align? (Select all that apply)

- Safety
- Healthy
- Literacy
- Two-Generation Approach

Which agencies represented on the Children’s Cabinet participate in this group or collaborative? (Select all that apply)

- American Academy of Pediatrics, Georgia Chapter
- Baldwin County School System
- Barton Child Law and Policy Center
- Bright Promises Children’s Center
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Early Care and Learning
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Public Health
- Division of Family and Children Services
- Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

- Georgia Family Connection Partnership
- Georgia Head Start Association
- Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office
- Governor's Office of Student Achievement
- Kids World Learning Center
- Office of the Child Advocate
- Technical College System of Georgia
- United Way of Central Georgia
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- United Way of Northwest Georgia
- University System of Georgia
- Voices for Georgia's Children
- Winder-Barrow High School
- Other (please specify): _____

Do you have any additional information regarding existing interagency groups and collaboratives you would like to share?

Children Cabinet Conferences or Trainings Survey

On behalf of the Georgia Children’s Cabinet, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government is documenting training events or conferences where agencies can engage in shared learning across their respective agencies.

We would like to know about any events or conferences where other state agencies could provide presentations about their services and programs. The following items will ask for information about the host agency, point of contact, next conference/training date, and website (if available). Before proceeding, please take a moment to collect contact information for those who coordinate the conferences.

Please provide your contact information and which agency you represent:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Agency _____

How many upcoming events or conferences where other state agencies could provide presentations about their services and programs are you aware of? Please count **only** those events or conferences where you know the event name and primary point of contact. (If none, please enter 0.)

What is the name of this **{first/second/third...}** conference or training event?

Which agency hosts this conference or training event?

Who is the point of contact for this conference or training event?

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Title _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Is this an annual conference or training event?

Yes

No

I don't know

When will this conference or training event occur next? (Please provide month and year if known.)

Please provide any additional comments about this conference or training event.

Do you have any additional information regarding conferences or training events you would like to share?
