



STATE OF GEORGIA
Children's Cabinet

Children's Cabinet

May 6, 2021

Zoom Meeting

8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Summary

Agenda

1. Agency Updates
2. PDG Grant and Cross Agency Strategic Plan update, Susan Adams, DECAL
3. Proposed revisions to Cabinet Strategic Plan doc, David Tanner, CVIOG
 - a. FY 2021 Accomplishments
4. Follow up items from March meeting
 - a. Fatherhood initiatives (DHS), Robyn Crittenden
 - b. Cabinet Leadership Development for FY2022
 - c. Social media messaging
5. Prepare for July meeting

Agency Updates

Public Health

- Teens will be eligible for the COVID vaccine
- Webinar coming out about vaccines
- 70% of the infections are related to Coronavirus variants
- Community outreach is critical to increasing the number of people vaccinated. Dr. Toomey had a meeting with church leaders in Albany recently – this is an example of outreach to trusted community leaders

DBHDD

- At the 5 state hospitals – vaccination rate is slowly increasing
 - It is helpful to have people's peers in the hospital sharing and encouraging others to get vaccinated.
- Today is Children's Mental Health Day at the capitol; Free Your Feels Campaign is going well.

- APEX – school-based mental health continues to be a priority in the budget.
- Funding is in the state budget for school-based suicide programs.
 - Need to add this to a cabinet discussion at some point

DHS

- DHS has a monthly “tune in” with the commissioner where she shared her vaccine experience. This seemed to help increase awareness and normalize getting the vaccine among staff.

GOSA

- The Georgia Supreme Court hosted a CLE training on suicide prevention.
- Teacher Pipeline bill signed this week; There is a clause on literacy to have USG do literacy training for all new teachers.
- School systems are using some of their federal funding to address “summer slide,” and make sure students are better prepared for next school year.
- There are a number of groups with appreciation days today – teachers, mental health workers, etc.

DECAL

- We have new social and emotional health coordinator at DECAL.
- Equitable building has a banner celebrating the Children’s Mental Health Week.
- Legislation passed creating a new parental leave benefit of 3 weeks of paid leave.

Cabinet members each expressed thanks to Dr. Toomey for all her work over the past year.

PDG Grant and Cross Agency Strategic Plan update, Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner, DECAL

In January 2020, Georgia was one of 20 states awarded the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) for \$11.2 million over three years to support our children birth to 5 programs and efforts. The grant required a thorough needs assessment that highlighted 6 areas of need across the Birth to Five system. These six areas are:

- 1) system building
- 2) quality of programs and services
- 3) data and research
- 4) workforce
- 5) access to programs and services
- 6) family engagement

The grant also required a strategic plan and the creation of a cross agency council. Most of the Children’s Cabinet agencies are represented on the cross-agency council. This is a working group that supports the PDG, promotes Children’s Cabinet priorities, and has representation across state agencies, families, and advocate partners. Susan highlighted a couple areas of the PDG strategic plan that align with cabinet priorities:

Systems Building - The plan speaks to the need to serve vulnerable populations better. It includes projects to inventory and cross walk early intervention services. For example, how do children who are not in the Babies Can't Wait program access services? A cross agency group from the Department of Public Health, Emory, and CVIOG will be working on this. Other projects in systems building goal areas include economic impact research and the creation of a key indicators dashboard is aligned with cabinet goals.

Data and Research – The second goal area highlighted by Susan in her presentation was the Data and Research goal. DECAL wanted to make sure we have a data informed research agenda. There was a lot of feedback about data and how to use data. The DECAL CACDS data system allows us to look at data for birth to 5 children, but has not been fully utilized. We are developing a new plan for CACDS. We have also collected data on the impact of COVID. We have done some survey work and focus groups, and will continue to do work here.

Cabinet member feedback on the PDG briefing was as follows:

Judy Fitzgerald thanked Susan for getting the family voice in the process; need more connectivity for mental health; DBHDD is working with DECAL on this.

Joy Hawkins was glad to see the data literacy training in the plan; GOSA is on the cross-agency council, and it is important to make sure people know about the data. Joy also appreciates the continuity we have across our agency initiatives and the help of CVIOG.

Proposed revisions to Cabinet Strategic Plan doc, David Tanner, CVIOG

David Tanner with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, walked the Cabinet through the updated Cabinet Strategic Plan, including refined indicators. The marked-up version reflecting cabinet input is attached. David also asked Cabinet members to share any accomplishments for FY 2021 as well as feedback on the plan. Items of note included:

Accomplishments to add:

- Adoption legislation passed this session.
- Foster care post-secondary education legislation; provides education at TCSG tuition free for foster care youth with families receiving adoption support
- DHS has expanded its relationship with TCSG to support their fatherhood initiative.

Safety goal

- No feedback on the Safety goal area:

Health goal:

- Home visits are important. Side note, we need to think about the health and safety of our workforce including who is getting vaccinated.
- GOSA is also discussing vaccines – specifically the COVID-19 vaccine – and the staff and students who are part of the Governor's Honors Program this Summer – we heard that

we cannot have any of the staff or student required to get vaccinated. We heard that we can't enforce it.

- Note the accomplishment that we passed the express eligibility for children on SNAP to get Medicaid.

Literacy goal

- Goals and measures came from the work of the Literacy Council.

2 Gen goal

- No Feedback on 2Gen goal area:

Follow up Items from March Meeting

Fatherhood initiatives (DHS)

Commissioner Robyn Crittenden, Deputy Commissioner Tanguler Gray, Assistant Deputy Commissioner John Hurst for Division of Child Support Services presenting on the Fatherhood Initiative. A copy of the presentation slides can be found on the Children's Cabinet website. The goal of the program is to assist parents who are struggling to make child support payments, and to connect them to employment and overcome barriers to making their child support payments.

Program is seeing great success with helping fathers pay child support. We celebrate the fatherhood program participants and successes of fathers paying child support. There are 60,000 cases where fathers are paying less than 25% of commitment. DHS expanded partnerships and the program footprint. Working to expand the program from seven TCSG schools to all TCSG schools. The plan is to have a fatherhood coordinator at each TCSG school.

A second fatherhood program is with the accountability courts. It started as a pilot project in 2009 with one court. We now have programs in 43 of 49 circuits now (Parent Accountability Court). The program includes weekly meetings and monthly court meetings. The program provides assistance to participants instead of penalties. DHS received a national award – NCSEA in 2018. All cabinet members were invited to attend a graduation ceremony sometime in the future.

Cabinet Discussion and Feedback:

- OCSE has allowed us to use incentive funding to increase father self-sufficiency.
- GOSA is active with non-profits; Joy is interested in partnering with literacy program.
- DECAL asked if there were any resources you can't deliver that fathers are asking for? Is access to childcare a need? Yes – DECAL will connect with DHS on this.
- How are fatherhood coaches trained? DHS has a great training team.

- Are you working with CareSource? Might be a good resource for helping as people come off Medicaid.
- Commissioner Crittenden said she is happy to present to your staff on the fatherhood program; let us know how we can help.

Cabinet Leadership Development for FY22

Commissioner Jacobs introduced the idea of the Cabinet developing a 2Gen Cross Agency Leadership Development program. The idea is to select individuals across our agencies that can come together for a 2Gen leadership program. The program may include leadership development, training and projects related to 2 Gen approach, and cross-agency relationship building. This could be a way to help our staff meet each other and push the 2 Gen approach down into our organizations. This just an idea and we are seeking your input. We'd have to figure out funding and planning, but I wanted to see what the Cabinet thought about it first.

Cabinet Discussion and Feedback:

DBHDD – we have people who want to work and be recognized for their leadership. This would be another way to recognize and further develop our great staff.

JOY HAWKINS, GOSA: loves the idea and can help agency leaders truly understand 2Gen. We're pretty well-versed in it but other leaders in our agencies are not as aware of the 2 Gen approach.

DAVID TANNER, CVIOG: We have done programs where participants get some leadership training, but they could also work on a 2Gen project. We could envision agencies working together on a project identified by the Cabinet. This would raise the profile, help create relationships, and pass 2Gen principles down through staff.

JUDY FITZGERALD, DBHDD: ta cross-agency program can help our staff develop relationships across agencies. 2Gen will happen by engaging the agency influencers that make things happen in the organization. I'd be happy to do a little work around this.

ROBYN CRITTENDEN, DHS: I have a good team that can help with this who has put things like this together before.

JOY, GOSA: As things open up – might be a good opportunity to get our staff together.

Common messages; Social media messaging,

Joy reminded the Cabinet members that we can push out coordinated messages. We are not connecting the way we were at the beginning of the pandemic. Is the Cabinet

still interested in having your communication staff working with our communications staff on messaging? [All agree]. Will draw people to the website, too.

The meeting closed with a reminder that the full cabinet will meet in July. The topic of conversation in July will be items related to the safety goal area.