



STATE OF GEORGIA  
Children's Cabinet

Children's Cabinet Meeting

June 18, 2019

Governor's Mansion

8 AM to 10 AM

**Summary**

**Welcome**

First Lady Marty Kemp

Joy Hawkins, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

First Lady Marty Kemp along with Cabinet Co-Chairs Joy Hawkins and Amy Jacobs welcomed guests with an overview of the Children's Cabinet by sharing some of the initiatives previous cabinets had prioritized. Key issues such as Georgia's P-20 Council, increased support for Georgia's foster children, and third grade reading proficiency, were outlined as past initiatives. In addition to this, Commissioner Jacobs provided a brief overview of the cabinet's purpose and emphasized the impact of collaboration and partnership among cabinet members.

Following a brief introduction, Director Hawkins and Commissioner Jacobs opened the floor to discussion with an icebreaker activity. The icebreaker activity allowed cabinet members to outline their personal priorities for Georgia's children and share their vision for what they hope to see the cabinet accomplish. Some of the priorities shared by members include:

- equal access to quality education regardless of income
- economic mobility
- "let kids be kids"
- a strong and safe environment to foster growth
- more ways to set students up for success in higher education
- career readiness
- providing a sense of "belonging"

## **Next Steps**

September (date and details TBD): Next full cabinet meeting

- A half day strategy meeting
- Goal: to identify three to four priorities to tackle in the coming years
- Facilitator will be present to help identify priorities

General Meeting Structure:

Executive Cabinet will meet three times a year

Full Cabinet will meet three times a year

\*\*Dates will be sent when confirmed

## **General Discussion**

After the overview of the next steps, Director Hawkins and Commissioner Jacobs opened the floor for members to share any other information relevant to the work of the cabinet. Below are some points of interest that were shared by members.

- The 2019 Kids Count Data brochures (published by the Casey Foundation) have been released with updated numbers. When the book first released in 1990, Georgia was ranked at 49. This year Georgia ranked 38. Georgia is now one of the top states in the country for improved childhood well-being.
- Ga Board of Pediatrics annual meeting identified issues such as vaccine hesitancy, child neglect, and nicotine use as major issues to watch in children. Furthermore, The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released new drowning prevention guidelines. Death by drowning is now the single leading cause of injury-related death among children ages one to four.
- With the “Family First Act,” the Division of Family and Children Services can proactively focus on mental health, parenting services, and substance abuse. With this act, there is now a move toward a model where parents are supported with training and information to help them raise their children.
- National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) conference is coming up in August. Maternal Child Wellness Program continues to be a priority for the NCSL. Rep. Katie Dempsey told members to contact her if there are items she should include for discussion at the August conference.

Attendees:

Marty Kemp - First Lady of Georgia  
Frank Berry - Department of Community Health  
Patty Bentley - Georgia House of Representatives- House District 139  
Mindy Binderman – Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)  
Amanda Burt - United Way of Northwest Georgia  
Melissa Carter – Barton Child Law and Policy Center – Emory Law School  
Rachel Davidson - Office of the Child Advocate  
Katie Dempsey - House of Representatives – House District 13  
Tristan Denley - University System of Georgia  
Joy Hawkins - Governor's Office of Student Achievement  
Joanna Hill - Bright Promises Children's Center  
Amy Jacobs – Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
Michelle Smith Lank - Kids World Learning Center  
Jay Neal - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Avery Niles – Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice  
Javier Pico - Prats – Office of the Governor  
Noris Price - Baldwin County School District  
Freddie Powell Sims - State Senate –District 12  
Tom Rawlings – Division of Family and Children Services  
Tommy Ratchford - Office of the Governor  
Tevin J. Roberts – Georgia Head Start Association  
Allison Setterlind - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
Gaye Morris Smith - Georgia Family Connection Partnership  
Richard Ward - American Academy of Pediatrics - Georgia Chapter  
Vonda Woodall - Winder-Barrow High School  
Richard Woods – Georgia Department of Education