



STATE OF GEORGIA
Children's Cabinet

Georgia Children's Cabinet Meeting

April 26, 2022

Governor's Mansion

8 AM to 10 AM

MINUTES

Children's Cabinet Attendees: First Lady Marty Kemp, Office of the Governor; Amy Jacobs, Department of Early Care and Learning; Joy Hawkins, Governor's Office of Student Achievement; Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges; Richard Ward, American Academy of Pediatrics – Georgia Chapter; Representative Katie Dempsey, District 13; Representative Patty Bentley; District 139; Dr. Erica Fener-Sitkoff, Voices for Georgia's Children; Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Department of Public Health; Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; Allison Setterlind, Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office; Jerry Bruce, Office of the Child Advocate; Mindy Binderman, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students; Miranda Bradford, Office of the Governor; Joanna Hill, Bright Promises Children's Center; Milton Little, Jr., United Way of Greater Atlanta; Gaye Smith, Georgia Family Connection Partnership; Vonda Woodall, Winder-Barrow High School; Juanita Yancey, Georgia Head Start Association

Carl Vinson Institute of Government facilitation staff: David Tanner, Associate Director; Dr. Melinda Moore, Public Service Faculty.

Welcome

Joy Hawkins, co-chair and Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) called the meeting to order at 8:16am and welcomed the Cabinet members and outlined the meeting agenda for the morning.

Approval of the Agenda

Amy Jacobs, co-chair and Commissioner of the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) made a motion to approve the agenda. Richard Ward, Executive Director of the Academy of Pediatrics – Georgia Chapter motioned and Dr. Kathleen Toomey, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH) seconded. All members approved, none opposed.

Cabinet Member Updates

Cabinet members provided updates on their work for the members of the Cabinet. A few of the updates included:

Office of the Governor, First Lady Marty Kemp, in collaboration with former UGA wide-receiver Malcom Mitchell, released a children's book, "Hey Georgia".

Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office stated that the federal government has announced that families can show their SNAP benefits card as proof of public assistance.

Governor's Office for Student Achievement stated that they held a school safety roundtable last month that is the first in a series.

United Way of Greater Atlanta stated that 14 other United Way locations around the state are also adopting the child well-being index, which measures child well-being on 14 different indicators. United Way of Greater Atlanta has also received a grant from Blue Meridian Partners that will bring \$8M into Atlanta.

Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Children awarded Representative Katie Dempsey their inaugural Early Childhood Champion award.

Remarks by First Lady Kemp

First Lady Marty Kemp welcomed the Children's Cabinet back in person and thanked the legislators and agencies for their work during the pandemic and the legislative session.

Update on the GRACE Commission/SB 461 – Human Trafficking

First Lady Kemp updated the Cabinet on Senate Bill 461 (Human Trafficking), which added human trafficking as a bailable offence. The First Lady also announced a new shelter in Gwinnett County is scheduled to open in August that can house 20 survivors of human trafficking.

Priority Area Legislative and Budget Updates

Amy Jacobs, Commissioner of DECAL, opened the floor for legislative and budget updates.

Safety and Health

HB1013 – Mental Health Bill

Erica Fender Sitkoff, Executive Director for Voices for Georgia's Children, presented a recap of HB1013/Mental Health Bill. It was reported that there will be \$96M in FY23 to increase access to mental health services.

HB1355 – Lead Poisoning Prevention Bill

Representative Dempsey and GEEARS Executive Director Mindy Binderman stated that the bill created uniformity with federal measures and built in \$1.8M to add environmental health experts to build supplies needed to identify locations, mitigate, and identify families with lead exposure.

Literacy

HR650 – Literacy Study Committee Bill

Joy Hawkins, Executive Director of GOSA, presented a recap of the HR650/Literacy Study Committee Bill. The bill creates the study committee for the year.

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SB 338 - Extends Postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months

Erica Fener Sitkoff (Georgia Voices) and Mindy Binderman, Executive Director for Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) presented a recap of the SB338/Postpartum Medicaid Coverage, which extended postpartum Medicaid coverage through the first year postpartum.

Cabinet Strategic Plan

David Tanner, Carl Vinson Institute of Government (Institute of Government), reminded Cabinet members that we're looking for Cabinet members to send updates on what Cabinet members have done related to the Cabinet priorities and strategies for inclusion in the Georgia Children's Cabinet annual report by May 31, 2022.

Other

Mental Health Awareness Week is the first week in May 2022.

The Human Trafficking Training Module is on the Office of the Governor's website and is available to agency staff and leadership.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Adjourn

Co-chairs Amy Jacobs and Joy Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 9:47am.