



STATE OF GEORGIA
Children's Cabinet

Executive Children's Cabinet Meeting

June 28, 2022

Governor's Mansion

8 AM to 9:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Executive Cabinet Members: Amy Jacobs, Department of Early Care and Learning; Joy Hawkins, Governor's Office of Student Achievement; Marty Kemp, First Lady; Judy Fitzgerald, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; Caylee Noggle, Department of Community Health; Greg Dozier, Technical College System of Georgia; Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; Kathleen Toomey, Department of Public Health; Jerry Bruce, Office of the Child Advocate; Tyrone Oliver, Department of Juvenile Justice

Department of Early Care and Learning Staff: Liz Young, Quandra Obi, Jerry Brown

Carl Vinson Institute of Government Staff: David Tanner, Melinda Moore, Veronica López-Delgado

Public Guests:

No public guests attended the meeting.

Call to Order

At 8:17am, Commissioner and Co-Chair Amy Jacobs from the Department of Early Care and Learning called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jacobs asked for a motion to accept the day's agenda. Commissioner Greg Dozier from the Technical College System of Georgia moved to accept, and Commissioner Tyrone Oliver from the Department of Juvenile Justice moved to accept. The Executive Cabinet accepted the agenda unanimously.

Agency Input for FY 2023 Cabinet Priorities

In order to guide strategic priorities for the Children's Cabinet for FY23, members of the Executive Cabinet shared top 3 impacts or issues for customers coming out of the pandemic, their agencies' top

strategic priority for the new fiscal year, and what issues they want the Cabinet to address in FY23. The cabinet identified the following topics as focus areas for FY23:

- Mapping life cycle of child through systems and programs
- Behavioral Health Innovation commission work
- School safety
- Workforce development
- Working Cross-agency on mental health
- Identifying and developing methods to share information to help children in need of services
- Identifying ways to utilize Medicaid funding for healthcare outcomes based on social determinants on health
- Vaccinations
- Utilizing home visits to improve maternal and infant mortality
- Improving awareness on lead assessments

Issues or impacts for customers and top strategic priorities for agencies are listed below:

- **DBHDD:** Positive from the pandemic is heightened awareness of mental health and reducing stigma when government leaders identify mental health as important. DBHDD is facing high expectations to respond rapidly to customer needs. DBHDD is facing workforce challenges impacting ability to respond to mental health issues. It is important to be able to deliver services via telehealth, but many services to the most vulnerable populations cannot use telehealth. Telehealth has had workforce implications as licensed clinicians show a preference for working from home over a hospital, community, or school setting. Need to identify how to impact retention and keep staff motivated and engaged.
- **DCH:** As the public health emergency period ends, over the next 12 months DCH will work with DHS to redetermine eligibility for the 2.6 million Medicaid members in Georgia. The contracts for Medicaid's managed care are up for procurement, and the RFP will be available in December or January; DCH will need to identify strategic goals and outcomes and align contracts with those goals in order to identify the best organizations for care management. DCH will be implementing parts of the Mental Health Parity Act. DCH will be completing rate studies and examining the challenges with inflation and subsequent rising rates from providers.
- **DJJ:** Working with local partners to make sure that kids who are on probation and parole are safe. Focusing on re-entry initiatives to drop crime in state, including partnering with TCSG, identifying employment, and connecting to social activities. Facing workforce challenges and lack of community providers for residential placements. Working to provide mental health supports to employees.
- **DPH:** Facing workforce challenges, including high burnout and loss of staff. COVID uniquely affected healthcare providers' level of work stress. Lack of staffing could impact ability to ramp up core public health functions.
- **TCSG:** Focused on workforce development. Strategic initiatives will help to close skills gap. Currently, TCSG enrollment is down, and each college is going through enrollment plans and

examining high career growth areas. Working on articulation agreements; already developed articulation agreements with USG and with 8 K-12 partners to gain TCSG credit for CTAE classes at the high school level. Supporting adults without high school diploma with pilot high schools, expanded GED testing, career plus pathway, and integrating high school equivalency with skills training to improve job outcomes. Students have expectations of a different delivery model following the pandemic, and TCSG will be focusing on what supports are needed around online education. Must recruit and retain qualified staff. Will focus on research and innovation to identify workforce needs in advance. Currently developing short term non-credit programs with stackable credentials so that students learn skills to get employed, with a pathway for further education in the future.

- **DECAL:** Coming out of the pandemic, childcare is stable in Georgia with the same number of childcare programs as before, but enrollment is down about 18%. This has implications for business model for childcare programs and missed early learning experiences for children. Focusing on workforce in childcare.
- **CJCC:** Greatest challenges are funding and workforce. VOCA allocation cut by federal government from 99 million to 34 million, which funds child advocacy centers, domestic violence centers, victims' advocates, etc. Loss of funding creating workforce challenges for CJCC. Local partners struggling with workforce retention especially in rural parts of the state. Decrease in reporting child abuse and youth crime during the pandemic but expected to rebound and increase in need for services for child abuse. Will be focusing on funding for partners as well as efficiencies. Partnership with GEMA and DOE on school safety plans; offering additional grants for training school resource officers and school staff.
- **GOSA:** Using Georgia Awards data system to track students from high school pathways to career. Closely monitoring literacy loss during the pandemic. Virtual trainings for educators have been very effective and will continue to work on educator and teacher pipeline this way.
- **OCA:** Greatest challenge is trying to overcome intergovernmental silos and data sharing barriers to understand children's needs.

Update on Georgia Children's Cabinet 2Gen Academy

Melinda Moore from Carl Vinson Institute of Government shared update on 2Gen Academy. First cohort will launch in September 2022. Nominees have been identified and must register. Dates have been confirmed for each agency to host. Greatest need is to identify families for panels and capstone project participation and local partners to share the 2Gen work currently taking place in Georgia.

Public Comment Period

No public guests attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Jacobs at 9:35 am.