



Children's Cabinet
November 14, 2023
Governor's Mansion
8am-10:00am

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

Co-Chair: Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner, Department of Early Care and Learning

Co-Chair: Joy Hawkins, Executive Director, Governor's Office for Student Achievement

Richard Ward, American Academy of Pediatrics – Georgia Chapter; Representative Katie Dempsey, District 13; Dr. Kathleen E. Toomey, Department of Public Health; Allison Setterlind; Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office; Jerry Bruce, Office of the Child Advocate; Junita Yancey, Georgia Head Start Association; Russell Carlson, Department of Community Health; Kevin Tanner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Department of Juvenile Justice; Greg Dozier, Technical College System of Georgia; and Michelle Smith, Kids World Learning Center

Additional Staff

Alice Aka, Governor's Office of Student Achievement
Melinda Moore, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
Quandra Obi, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
David Tanner, UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
Liz Young, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Mackenzie Watson, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Briana Thomas, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Diana Durrence, Georgia Department of Public Health

Public Guests:

No public guests attended the meeting.

Call to Order

Amy Jacobs, co-chair called the meeting to order at 8:16am and welcomed the Cabinet members and outlined the meeting agenda for the morning.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Jacobs asked for a motion to accept the day's agenda. Greg Dozier, Commissioner, Technical College System of Georgia, made the motion to accept. Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice seconded. The Cabinet accepted the agenda unanimously.

Agency Updates

Joy Hawkins invited the Cabinet members to provide updates on their work. Items discussed included the new MATCH program, a partnership with TCSG and USG to enroll more high school graduates in college; mental health needs of mothers and the need for OB/GYNs to prescribe medicine. Efforts to recruit public health nurse and mental health related workers; vaccines for children and training more pediatricians to address lower level mental health conditions. Addressing children's mental health continues to be a priority.

Update on the 2 Gen Academy

Melinda Moore provided an update on the 2nd cohort of the 2 Gen Academy.

Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb shared examples of how all three of the DJJ 2 Gen Academy graduates are putting their learning to work at DJJ with the support of the Commissioner and Department. They are incorporating families more in their processes including establishing a new family advisory council and looking at ways to encourage not just the youth but also their parent to continue their education and having these conversations when planning for re-entry and the youth returning home.

Other members shared examples of what they are doing related to 2 Gen. DECAL highlighted 2 Gen and incorporating family voice as part of their all staff meeting. HeadStart and DECAL also noted that efforts are underway to provide early learning during non-traditional hours.

Cabinet Strategic Initiatives

Home visiting strategy update. Commissioner Toomey provided an updated on the home visiting strategy. They have two sites up and running as part of the pilot program. Hiring continues to be a challenge to get programs underway. Several federal agencies are interested in what Georgia is doing and see it as an innovative approach.

Literacy Council. Executive Director Hawkins updated the Cabinet on the literacy program activities. The Literacy Report is due November 30, 2023. One of the areas of focus is hearing and vision screening. The Cabinet expressed interest in finding a way for screening data to follow the children, so they get the services they need.

Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Adjourn

Co-chairs Amy Jacobs and Joy Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 9:44 am.