



STATE OF GEORGIA
Children's Cabinet

Georgia's Executive Children's Cabinet Meeting

January 10, 2023

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Oak Conference Room, 8th Floor, East Tower, Sloppy Floyd Building

10 AM to 11 :30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Executive Cabinet Members: Amy Jacobs, Department of Early Care and Learning; Joy Hawkins, Governor's Office of Student Achievement; Kevin Tanner, 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; Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Department of Juvenile Justice, Richard Woods, Department of Education, Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges, Miranda Williams, Governor's Office

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

Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement Staff: Alice Aka, Malenka Warner

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

Public Guests: Laura Lucas, IECHMH Coordinator, DECAL

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:15 am, Commissioner and Co-Chair Amy Jacobs from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Cabinet Co-chair, Amy Jacobs, asked for a motion to accept the day's agenda. Superintendent Woods, with the Georgia Department of Education moved to accept, and Commissioner Caylee Noggle from the

Georgia Department of Community Health seconded. The Full Cabinet accepted the agenda unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Children's Cabinet co-chair Joy Hawkins welcomed the Executive Cabinet and introduced Alice Aka and Malenka from her agency.

The Cabinet was then invited to share any member agency updates.

AGENCY UPDATES

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

Commissioner Noggle shared that DCH is working on CMO procurement. She reminded Cabinet members that bidders should only be talking with the designated persons at DCH and DOAS about the procurement. She also shared that eligibility review has been decoupled from the federal emergency. The state will likely start eligibility redetermination in April 2023, likely more than 500,000 will likely not be eligible. Want to transition as many people as we can using the 1115 waiver.

Commissioner Toomey shared that there is COVID mitigation funds from the CDC that can be used for school age children. She also shared that maternal and child health continues to be a high priority. She also shared that DPH was undergoing some internal reorganizations.

Director Jay Neal shared that they have set up three one-stop family justice locations for CJCC services related to domestic violence. Cobb County dedicated their office last month. The agency anticipates VOCA funding cuts as reserves have all been spent.

Interim Commissioner Reynolds-Cobb shared that almost half of DJJ youth have mental health needs. The agency needs more mental health providers. She mentioned that a bill related to 17 year olds will be part of the legislative session.

Superintendent Woods said the DOE will continue to work on school safety; likely we will see some activity on this during session. Mental health needs continue to be a priority as well. K-12 is challenged with teacher retirements and recruitment and retention is a priority. The agency is rolling out new math standards and expanding graduation pathways. An acute workforce challenge is finding bus drivers and lunch room staff.

Director Bruce raised the issue of child abuse protocol and that most jurisdictions don't have a child abuse protocol.

Eric John added that if the raise the age bill is passed, more resources will be needed in juvenile courts.

Commissioner Tanner shared that DBHDD is working with DCH and DHS on issue effecting children and families. Workforce is one of greatest challenges. In the budget the agency wants to support crisis units and reducing.

2 GEN ACADMEY

This time was tabled. An update will be emailed to the Cabinet.

SPECIAL TOPIC DISCUSSION – SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH and HOME VISITING

Commissioner Noggle discussed how families and children can benefit with a focus on social determinants of health and preventive services. There is new flexibility at CMS to use Medicaid funds for interventions. The Executive Cabinet discussed how focused investments in preventive health could be measured and improve health. Historically, the state has not led in defining what we want related to preventive health related to social determinants of health. We want to do some things that are measurable – focus on the metric we want to effect and then do something – needs to be aligned with state Medicaid measures. She asked the Cabinet, what are some things we as a cabinet can focus on that will move some of our measures in Medicaid?

Commissioner Toomey discussed her interest in the Cabinet aligning its efforts around home visiting programs to improve health outcomes. DPH is setting up working group and a demonstration project and shared that a cross agency approach will be critical. Home visiting efforts can be done by home and community workers that don't necessarily have to be nurses. We can train community health workers to do some basic health interventions. This may help us reduce our use of non-emergency medical transports. Home visits can also help with literacy as well. Funding will be the key to expand home visiting and pilot some new interventions.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (11:35 am)

No public guests attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Executive Director Hawkins at 11:40 am.