



STATE OF GEORGIA  
Children's Cabinet

Children's Cabinet

January 7, 2020

Governor's Mansion

8 AM to 10 AM

### Summary

#### 1. Welcome and Announcements

- a. Voices for Georgia's Children is hosting weekly meetings at the Capitol for legislators to present their priorities for the session.
- b. DPH is currently working on expanding home visitation and integrated healthy brain development practices.
- c. GOSA and DOE reported that they are developing a literacy strategic plan for Georgia.
- d. DECAL received Preschool Development Grant B-5 renewal for three years, approximately \$11.3M.

#### 2. Recap of September Planning Meeting, Cabinet Approach, and Priorities

- a. Reviewed the Cabinet's strategic vision, approach statement and goals areas
  - i. Addition of the statement, "children take responsibility for their own physical, social, and emotional health" was added because there are programs underway in the early grades and Pre-k to help children understand social and emotional health. This statement can also incorporate good nutrition. It was noted that children need to learn to recognize and control healthy behaviors.
  - ii. Executive Cabinet approved a literacy advisory committee to work in support of and under the direction of the Children's Cabinet.
  - iii. Cabinet was requested to think about "early wins" over the next six months to address these four goal areas between now and June 2020.

#### 3. Establishing Four Topic Area Subcommittees (i.e., indicate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> preference)

- a. The Cabinet placed themselves into subcommittees (with their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> preference) to work on key indicators. Attendees were invited to nominate people who are subject-matter experts that can contribute to these subcommittees to help Cabinet move forward on these goal areas.

**4. Update on the Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Health, Representative Katie Dempsey**

- a. Five House members (Representatives Dempsey, Cantrell, Dickerson, Dickey, and Oliver) serve on the study committee to promote positive social and emotional behavior for infants and toddlers.
- b. Goal is to establish state-level leadership by creating an infant and childhood coordinator embedded in DECAL tasked with the following responsibilities: to develop a public awareness campaign to launch by June 2021; and to create a cross-agency leadership team (DPH, DBHDD, DCH, DFCS, DECAL); establish agreed-upon core competencies for social and emotional behavior for infants and toddlers; convene meetings to discuss Medicaid reimbursement for infants and toddlers; work with OB/GYNs to provide screenings and touch points for children without access to well visits; and to seek and apply for early development grants, especially to train workforce.
- c. A copy of the final report can be found here:  
[http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2019/Infant\\_and\\_Toddler\\_Social\\_and\\_Emotional\\_Health/HR421\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2019/Infant_and_Toddler_Social_and_Emotional_Health/HR421_Final_Report.pdf)

**5. Update on the Behavioral Health Commission, Representative Kevin Tanner**

- a. The Commission had its first meeting in December. The Commission work will be done in subcommittees and subcommittee appointments will be rolled out next week. Four subcommittees will be created:
  - i. Children and Adolescent Behavioral Health, subcommittee chair will be Dr. Sarah Vinson
  - ii. Involuntary Commitment, subcommittee chair will be Judge Brian J. Amero
  - iii. Hospital and Short-Term Care Facilities; subcommittee chair will be Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald
  - iv. Mental Health Courts and Corrections, subcommittee chair will be Justice Michael Boggs
  - v. Workforce and System Development, subcommittee chair to be determined.
- b. Subcommittees meeting monthly initially, full committee will meet every few months. Early wins would include holding town hall meetings with subcommittee chairs in order to elicit barriers and roadblocks with families with mental health concerns across the state.

**6. Briefing on the United Way 211 System (relates to 2 Gen Approach area), Donna Burnham, Vice President and 211 Director**

- a. United Way operates a full-fledged contact center that connects people to community services 24/7 in 140 languages and serves metro-Atlanta region with 135 basic resources for needs (shelter, healthcare, education, and disaster relief).
- b. In 2019, 211 had contact with 500, 000 individuals.
- c. You can call or text, email, or chat with specialists.
- d. A database of services also exists; goal is to educate and empower the community.

- e. Georgia is not fully covered with 211 service; currently the 211 service out of the United Way office in Atlanta supports the following areas: Athens, Augusta, Macon, Forsyth, Hall, and Columbus. For those areas not covered with 211, operators will link to someone in your area for further assistance.

## **7. Wrap up and action items**

### **a. Potential early wins:**

- i. Update 211 resource lists for agencies
  - 1. Coordinate an effort to review and/or revise agency services in the 211 database
  - 2. Inform state agency employees about the 211 system. We can ask cabinet member agencies to put 211 on their websites and perhaps in newsletters.
- ii. Cross-training of front-line staff
  - 1. Create a list of conferences and trainings to distribute to agencies and encourage cross-agency presentations and attendance.
- iii. Inventory all the inter-agency groups and collect the plans they have developed related to services for children and families related to safety, health, and literacy.
  - 1. Interagency Directors Team (IDT) as part of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council is entering planning phase of next strategic plan, suggest Cabinet alignment during this time.
- iv. Maintain Georgia's strong child immunization system
- v. Help with the Census 2020 effort as the birth to five population is hardest to compile and it affects funding.
- vi. New funding from the federal government around training will flow through CAPS and Head Start for children with families experiencing substance abuse issues. We can make sure that it aligns with Cabinet.

### **b. Action items:**

- i. Conferences - Submit annual conferences to Quandra Collins at DECAL so that we can compile key conferences, contact person, and dates and re-circulate back to group
- ii. Update 211 for your front line services
- iii. The co-chairs will work on forming the subcommittee based on the preference forms
- iv. Inventory current interagency efforts and any plans



