

**Georgia Children’s Cabinet  
Executive Meeting  
Thursday, January 16th, 2014 - Minutes  
Executive Cabinet: 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM  
The Governor’s Mansion, 391 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA**

**Attendees:** First Lady Sandra Deal, Director Ballard Ballard (GOCF), Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD), Thomas Worthy (OCA), Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH), Commissioner Keith Horton (DHS), Corinna Magelund (Disability Services Ombudsman), Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ), Commissioner Clyde Reese (DCH)

**Members Not in Attendance:** Dr. John Barge (DOE), Commissioner Bobby Cagle (DECAL), Erin Hames (Governor’s Office), Bonnie Holliday (SCSC), Eric John (CJCJ), Martha Ann Todd (GOSA)

**Others Attending:** Ember Bishop (First Lady’s Office), Hayley Howell (GOCF), Matthew Hawkins (GOCF)

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Conclusion/ Action to Take/Follow up
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The meeting was called to order by First Lady Deal. Introductions and welcomes were made.</li> <li>➤ First Lady Deal called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Executive Cabinet meeting.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The minutes were approved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>Discussion of Full Cabinet Meeting Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ First Lady Deal stated that the agenda was to go over the Full Cabinet meeting agenda.</li> <li>➤ Director Katie Jo Ballard (GOCF) commented on the previous Executive Cabinet meeting.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Director Ballard thanked Commissioner Fitzgerald’s willingness to take the lead on Fitness (September Healthy Choices Month)</li> <li>❖ Director Ballard also thanked Commissioner Berry’s readiness to assist with Prevention Awareness Month (April).</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Director Ballard commented about the upcoming Service and Volunteerism Month (February). She mentioned the submissions for the inaugural “The Servant’s Heart Award”, which honors a Georgia youth who exemplifies the First Lady’s commitment to volunteerism and community involvement.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ About 15 were submitted</li> <li>❖ GOCF narrowed finalist pool down to 8 and will ask members of the Full Cabinet to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ choose their three favorite submissions</li> <li>❖ GOCF will tally the votes and the First Lady will select the winner of the award</li> <li>➤ Director Ballard introduced Interim Director of OCA, Thomas Worthy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mentioned his team will be providing a report on child fatality in Full Cabinet meeting.</li> <li>❖ Interim Director Worthy thanked the team and especially Commissioner Fitzgerald for the DPH's help with compiling the Child Fatality Report</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Announcements and Celebrations section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Director Ballard wanted this to be a time to share the Cabinet's successes. She was specifically thinking of Commissioner Niles and the recent graduation ceremony celebrated by the DJJ.</li> <li>❖ Commissioner Fitzgerald commented that the work Commissioner Reese and the Department of Community Health have performed involving 'Complex Trauma' should be mentioned at the Full Cabinet meeting.</li> <li>❖ Commissioner Horton commended the MOU between the DHS and DCH.</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Reese started a quarterly child death report a few years ago <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Niles commented that the MOU will provide a holistic look at the state on child deaths</li> <li>▪ The MOU will be used to inform the public about things everyone can be educated on in order to prevent future child fatalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ i.e. Co-sleeping</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Commissioner Berry commended Thomas on his leadership on the CHINS implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commissioner Niles mentioned that, during the month of December, the population of the YDCs has dropped over 200 juveniles. December was the first full month of judges embracing the reform.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Commissioner Horton will go over the additional dollars recommended by the Governor for DFCS case workers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Some caseworkers were covering 20 cases or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>more in a county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ First Lady Deal asked Commissioner Niles to talk about the recent graduation in the Full Cabinet meeting</li> <li>❖ First Lady Deal mentioned that we need to encourage our volunteers working in difficult education situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ She transitioned into suggesting that maybe it would be beneficial for parents to go to class with their students if they are causing problems</li> <li>▪ Commissioner Horton mentioned that he will look into the possibility of using this idea in “problem solving court” with Judge Velma C. Tilley of Carterville.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Executive Cabinet was moved downstairs to the Governor’s Mansion Ballroom for the Full Cabinet Meeting</li> <li>➤ The Executive Cabinet meeting concluded at 8:30 AM</li> </ul>	