



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: Since 2003, the First Lady's Children's Cabinet has provided unique leadership on child welfare and juvenile justice issues in Georgia by coordinating policies and resources across agencies to improve outcomes for children and families; and

WHEREAS: The First Lady's Children's Cabinet has had certain roles and responsibilities, which include to collaborate actively in sharing resources and removing barriers to service delivery; develop and implement a strategic plan for coordinating policy making and planning for all state agencies and programs that are responsible for children and their families; identify state strategic priorities and develop initiatives in response; meet at least quarterly; and

WHEREAS: Since its inception, the First Lady's Children's Cabinet has counted among its accomplishments the successful creation of Embrace, Georgia's Foster Family Foundation; a school-based training for mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect; TeenWork, a summer jobs program for teens in foster care; a campaign to highlight the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit; a strategic focus on improving high school graduation rates by supporting a system of care for children with behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS: By identifying state strategic priorities for children and families, developing initiatives in response to those strategies, and leveraging the resources of multiple agencies, the First Lady's Children's Cabinet continues to identify and seek to eliminate gaps and duplications in services and to increase our state's capacity to meet the needs of children and families; and

WHEREAS: The current important work of the Cabinet includes ongoing, thorough mapping and evaluation of child and family services across the state; projects to improve the quality of services provided to children and families; support and coordination of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care; and evaluation of and recommendations for a new Juvenile Code for Georgia; and

WHEREAS: While the Cabinet has until this time marshaled its resources informally through the leadership of the First Lady, formally recognizing and authorizing this body will enable it more effectively to perform its duties and will allow it to apply for various federal, state, and private funds; and

WHEREAS: The importance of the Cabinet's past, present, and future work makes it appropriate to formally create and recognize its existence.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the Georgia Children's Cabinet is hereby created and shall assume and continue to carry out the work and responsibilities of the First Lady's Children's Cabinet.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Georgia Children's Cabinet shall be attached for administrative purposes to the Governor's Office for Children and Families, and that the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children and Families shall provide and coordinate staff support for the Cabinet.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Governor or his or her designee shall serve as chair, and that the individuals occupying the following positions, or their designees, shall serve as active members of the Cabinet:

Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Commissioner, Department of Community Health
Commissioner, Bright from the Start, Department of Early Care & Learning
Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice
State Superintendent of Schools
Director, Office of the Child Advocate
Director, Governor's Office for Children and Families
Disability Services Ombudsman
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Community Services and Intake, Department of Juvenile Justice
Deputy Commissioner, Division of Programs and Secure Campuses, Department of Juvenile Justice
Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family and Children Services, Office of Child Support, Department of Human Services
Director, Division of Public Health, Department of Community Health
President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia
Director, Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia

This 9th day of March, 2010.


GOVERNOR