

2012 Legislative Session Kick-Off

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Presentation to: Board of Human Services

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Georgia Department of Human Services

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

Agency Legislation

- **DNA Testing:** Require pre-court ordered DNA testing of unwed persons with state child support cases.
 - **Purpose:** To prevent an individual, who is under a court order to pay child support and is later excluded as the father through DNA testing, from having to pay future child support and child support arrears that have been adjudicated by the court.
 - **Budget Impact:** No budget impact. Associated testing costs will be passed to the alleged father or the custodial parent.

Agency Legislation

- **Fraud and Abuse:** Authorize DHS to examine financial records in instances of alleged fraud by recipients of food stamps and public assistance when they have an open case of suspected fraud.
 - **Purpose:** To provide DHS Benefit Fraud Investigators with a necessary tool to be used during investigations of alleged fraud and/or prosecutions against individuals fraudulently receiving food stamp and/or public assistance benefits.
 - **Budget Impact:** No budget impact.

Legislation to Watch

- **State-wide reporting system for child abuse and suspected child abuse**

- **HB 633**

Impact: This bill would require DHS to establish a state-wide reporting system for child abuse and suspected child abuse. The Reporting system would be available via the Internet and a toll free number, both of which would operate 24/7.

Status: House Judiciary Committee

- **Juvenile Code Re-Write**

- **HB 641**

Impact: This bill would give DHS/DFCS responsibility for the case management, out-of-home placement and provisions of services for a new population of children not previously serviced by DFCS. Additionally, may require DFCS to provide Independent Living Program services to an additional youth population.

Status: House Judiciary Committee

- **SB 127**

Impact: This bill would give DHS/DFCS responsibility for the case management, out-of-home placement and provisions of services for a new population of children not previously serviced by DFCS. Additionally, may require DFCS to provide Independent Living Program services to an additional youth population.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

Legislation to Watch

- **Utilization of Psychotropic Medication among foster children in state custody**

- **HB 23**

- Impact:* This bill would require DHS to establish regulations governing the use of psychotropic medications for foster children in state custody.

- Status:* House Health & Human Services

- **Drug Testing and Public Assistance**

- **HB 464, HB 668, HB 698, HB 699, SB 292**

- Impact:* Require DHS to conduct drug testing for recipients of certain public assistance.

Questions?