

# Legislative Study Committee

## Updates

Dr. Jay Bulot

DHS Board Meeting

November 12, 2014



Georgia Department of Human Services

# **SR 828 – Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults**

# **SR 881– Senate Senior Technology Gap Study Committee**

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# Background

- 54% of Americans over 65 have Internet Access
  - 77+ only 30% have access
- 66% of Seniors say access to health information is important, but only 28% have full access
- 60% want to email providers, but only 15% have capability
- Low Income Seniors have even less access

# Membership

- Senator Valencia Seay
- Senator Brandon Beach
- Senator Gloria Butler
- Senator Chuck Hufstetler

# Purpose

- To understand the problems seniors face and to develop strategies to overcome such problems

# Status

- DHS and/or DAS attended most of the study committee hearings
- Provided updates on issues are requested
- Offered to solicit input during Aging State Plan Public Hearings
  - Discussed the Study Committee
  - Handed out prepared survey
  - Compiling data to send to Chair
- Coordinated to ensure aging network was aware of hearings and seniors were able to attend.

# Themes from Public Hearings

- Seniors would like computer classes offered in the senior centers
- In home monitoring of health issues
- Easier ways for seniors to remember multiple passwords
- Seniors are sometimes embarrassed to ask for help using technology (i.e. when applying for services online)



# Themes from Public Hearings

- Some seniors are not interested in learning how to use new technology
- Make technical schools that receive funding offer technology classes to seniors for free
- Some seniors have no access to computers
- Seniors struggle using technology due to physical constraints like arthritis
- How can technology be made affordable for seniors?

# **SR 828 – Joint Study Committee on Emergency Relocation of Abused Adults**

# Background

- Increase in crimes of ANE are receiving more attention by LE and other Social Service Agencies
- When PCH or other residential facilities are closed, there is no consistent process in place for relocating residents
- Lack of process hinders agencies involved with relocation effort in transitioning residents
- GA has seen a significant increase in relocations of at-risk adults over the past year

# Membership

- Senator Renee Unterman, Co-Chair
- Representative Tommy Benton, Co-Chair
- Senator John Albers
- Senator Nan Orrock
- Representative Jan Tankersley
- Representative Gerald Green
- Pat King, DHS/DAS Forensic Specialist
- Greg Tanner, AARP Director
- Barbara Baxter, LNHA

# Purpose

- Study the process of relocating adults residents from PCH closed due to abusive situations
- Study the need for legislation to create a multidisciplinary team to develop protocol to be deployed, required training, etc.

# Updates from Hearings

## 1st Hearing:

- Staffing to workload ratio showing involved agencies (DHS/DCH) are understaffed for mandated work - unPCH work on top of mandated work
- Growing problem of unPCHs presented to Joint Study Committee
- Large amount of fraud being perpetrated by owners/operators of unPCHs (\$750,000 of known loss in three cases from this summer)
- PPT showing filthy/unsafe living conditions endured by victims

# Updates from Hearings

## 2nd Hearing:

- Goals and plans for unPCH investigations and emergency relocations provided
- Process for current unPCH investigations provided
- Process for current emergency relocations provided
- Requested budget provided for "rapid response team"
- Committee members requested additional information: number of arrests associated with previous relocations; comparable fines in other states
- OPB requested items from 2nd meeting including proposed budget for rapid response team

# Overall

Various pieces of legislation are being proposed as a result of SR828 and other work in the area of at risk adults.

Unsure what outcomes will be of SR 881 - Senior Technology Gap Study Committee



DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

# DAS

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