



MEMORANDUM

TO: DHR Employees

FROM: Commissioner B.J. Walker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJWalker", is written over the printed name of Commissioner B.J. Walker.

DATE: February 4, 2008

Today as you read this email from me, Governor Sonny Perdue is announcing an Executive Order establishing a Health and Human Resources Commission to conduct a review of the mission and duties of three departments: DHR, DCH, and the State Personnel Administration. I encourage you to see this review as an opportunity to further improve the work that you do on behalf of Georgia's citizens. In some ways the basic questions that will be asked are ones you ask everyday: What does it mean to do the right work, the right way?

A couple of months ago at church, the minister made a powerful statement: He said: "your story ain't about you." The next day at work, I considered what that might mean and I fully realized that no matter how hard our work is, at the end of the day, our work at DHR is about the people we serve, people who need public services and depend on us to do our jobs with discipline and compassion. That will never change. But if there is some way to do our work differently and better and if that means that families, children, and vulnerable adults will be better off, that is really all that matters.

There will be temptation to indulge in rumor and speculation as this Commission does its work. Please do not and discourage others who may be so inclined. To paraphrase a philosopher whose name escapes me: *the unexamined life is not worth living*. This is not a test nor is it an evaluation of your work. It is a unique opportunity for reflection and transformation. We should all embrace that because it is about being better tomorrow than we are today.

Should you have questions or need to understand anything about this process, please do not hesitate to email me or your Director. And we will try to keep you informed about the work of the Commission as it proceeds.

Thank you for all you do for Georgia's citizens.