



Georgia Department of Human Services
Office of General Counsel

Legal Update

Tonya Cureton Curry
General Counsel

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.**



Office of General Counsel

Vision

To be a trusted business partner engaged in the development of stronger families for a stronger Georgia.

Mission

Our mission is to work collaboratively with our partners to assist the multiple business facets of the Georgia Department of Human Services in identifying and responding to legal matters in a practical and sustainable way.

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 office.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the office.



OGC Responsibilities

The Office of General Counsel provides ongoing support to the Department's three divisions and eleven offices. Support of the Department includes guidance on program initiatives and all required regulatory functions related to:

- Child welfare and safety
- Family development and independence
- Aging services
- Enterprise-level functions



Legal Update

Major Projects

- Kenny A litigation
- Contract structuring and drafting for the Georgia Gateway project
- HB 905 implementation



Kenny A Litigation

- Kenny A Consent Order Entering the Modified Consent Decree and Exit Plan signed by U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Thrash on December 5, 2016
- Special Thanks to the entire DFCS team and especially to those who worked to negotiate the exit plan

Bobby Cagle – DFCS Director

Ginger Pryor – DFCS Deputy Director

Lynn Barmore - DFCS Metro District Director

Andrea Tulloch - DFCS Regional Director

Glenene Lanier - DFCS Fulton County Director

Travis Moses - DFCS Fulton County Deputy Director

Laurence Nelson - DFCS DeKalb County Director

Kimberly Mobley - DFCS DeKalb County Deputy Director

Betsy Scott and Michael Forte - DFCS Region XIV Kenny A. Team

Steve Reed, Michael Fost, John Roach, Samantha Adams - DFCS Data Unit

Mable Gibson, Carol Hall, William Jones, Rachel Rogers and Janice Lester - State Office Kenny A. Unit

Vivian Egan - DFCS General Counsel, Tonya Curry DHS General Counsel



Georgia Gateway Contracts

Contract structuring and drafting for the Georgia Gateway project continues at all levels:

- Local
- State
- Federal



HB 905 Implementation

The new legislation requires DHS to:

- Establish a child welfare agency (“CWA”) public scorecard to score child welfare agencies
- Publish those scores and
- Provide a process for child welfare agencies to appeals their scores



Ongoing OGC Matters

- Review of proposed legislation
- Federal and State law compliance
- Privacy compliance, training and breach response
- State administrative hearing process
- Drafting of contracts, agreements and proposals
- Constituent inquiries, including open records requests
- Drafting of administrative rules and coordination of rule changes
- Board Governance and support



QUESTIONS

