



VOICES
for
Georgia's Children

GEORGIA'S CHILD-SERVING AGENCIES

2012 GUIDE



PREFACE

While children do not vote, they are, nevertheless, the irreplaceable key to the health and success of Georgia's future. Subsequently, State policy and services which help and affect children, and the accompanying dollars, are scattered throughout state agencies. With that in mind, we have developed this guide to child-serving agencies. We hope that this will be a useful quick reference tool for policymakers, advocates and practitioners alike.

We intend to update the guide regularly, so we ask your help in making corrections, improving the format, and asking for critical information. Please email us at info@georgiavoices.org with your ideas.

We also want to thank the agency staffs who helped us by reviewing content and Joseph Leonard, a summer intern from Georgia State Law School, for his energy, persistence and patience while doing the yeoman's work on this publication.

Pat Willis

Executive Director

Voices for Georgia's Children

INTRODUCTION

Most state agencies support children as part of their fundamental charter; some provide ancillary services, recognizing youth as an important constituency when it comes to meeting an agency's short- and long-term objectives. The following list provides a ready reference to the most familiar services of each of the agencies covered in this handbook. The ensuing pages go into a deeper examination of the structure, governance, and services of each organization. Where possible, we have attempted to indicate the number of children served by key programs within the agencies.

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The Department of Agriculture (GDA) promotes Georgia's agriculture through education and investigation of issues involving the welfare of farmers and agricultural product consumers.
- 2 The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) serves people with mental illnesses, addictive diseases, and developmental disabilities.
- 4 The Department of Community Health (DCH)**

The Department of Community Health (DCH) administers Medicaid, PeachCare, and the State Health Benefits Plan.
- 6 The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)**

The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) administers Georgia's Pre-K Program, child care licensing and regulation, child care subsidies, food programs, and collaboration with Head Start.
- 8 The Department of Education (DOE)**

The Department of Education (DOE) is the agency oversees fiscal and administrative management of K-12 public education, including the implementation of federal and state mandates.
- 9 The Department of Human Services (DHS)**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) administers a wide range of social services, including child support, child welfare (through the Division of Family and Children's Services), child abuse and neglect prevention, adoption and programs assisting low-income families such as food stamps (SNAP) and welfare (TANF).
- 10 Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)**

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; helps low-income, out-of-work parents get back on their feet with numerous support services and programs geared to help troubled families.
- 12 The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) handles the supervision, detention, and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents awaiting trial or committed to state custody by the Juvenile Courts.

14 The Department of Public Health (DPH)

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides services for the detection, prevention, and control of disease, disorders, and disabilities. Programs for children include vaccines, newborn screening, dental health, Children 1st, and food supplement programs like WIC.

16 The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF)

The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) provides coordination between providers of children's services, develops research and policy proposals on child-related issues, and carries out child abuse prevention and community-based service programs.

17 Georgia Children's Cabinet

The Georgia Children's Cabinet consists of all state agency heads that work with child populations as well as select community, philanthropic, education, and business stakeholders. This group works to align state and community programs and inform state decision making to improve delivery of care to children.

18 The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) analyzes and communicates statewide data regarding student achievement and school completion from Pre-K through college.

20 The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) offers advice and assistance to Georgia's child-serving agencies, child policy, at-risk families, and foster children of the state. The Office also inspects all facilities and residences, public and private, where a child has been placed by a court or by the Division of Family and Children Services (Department of Human Services).

21 The Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner (OCI)

The Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner (OCI) regulates the private insurance industry and houses the Georgia State Fire Marshall's Office, which administers programs on fire safety and prevention to children in schools and throughout the community.

Department of Agriculture (GDA)

<http://agr.georgia.gov>
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-3600; Toll Free: 1-800-282-5852
Commissioner of Agriculture Gary W. Black
O.C.G.A. § 2-2-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Agriculture do?

- Protects consumers and promotes agriculture both locally and globally.
- Examines and investigates any matter relating to or affecting the welfare of farmers and agricultural product consumers of the state.
- Gathers, formulates, and disseminates information to benefit farmers and consumers.

How does the Department serve children?

- Consumer Services handles hundreds of requests every year from Georgia elementary and middle school students seeking information about agriculture in our state. It also prepares exhibits for schools and fairs.
- The Department provides online resources and activities for students on food safety, healthy eating, and agriculture in Georgia.

What is the governance structure of the Department of Agriculture?

- The Commissioner of Agriculture is a constitutionally elected officer and serves as the chief administrative officer of the Department for a four-year term.
- The Department of Agriculture does not have a Board of Directors. The Commissioner promulgates rules and regulations concerning the operations, duties, and responsibilities of the Department.

What Divisions and Services serving children are under the Department of Agriculture?

- **Administration Division** – handles all administrative functions for the Department.
- **Food Safety Division** – administers state laws and regulations for grocery stores, retail seafood stores and food-processing businesses required to obtain a license from the Commissioner such as bakeries and similar establishments selling food primarily for consumption off the premises (not restaurants and institutions).
- **Marketing Division** – promotes demand for and sales of the state's agricultural commodities in the United States and abroad.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)

<http://dbhdd.georgia.gov>
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 24th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

404-657-2252
Commissioner Frank W. Berry III
O.C.G.A. § 37-1-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) do?

- Provides support services to people with mental illnesses, addictive diseases, and developmental disabilities based on single or co-occurring diagnoses provided by the institutions, contractors, and programs under its control, management, or supervision, as well as Medicaid services and related waivers.
- Establishes, operates, and supervises state facilities for treatment of mental illness, addictive diseases, and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Provides community services through contracts with private, for-profit, non-profit, and quasi-public agencies, under contract with DBHDD through regional offices.
- Conducts research into the causes and treatment of disability and the means of promoting mental health and addictive disease recovery.
- Provides guidelines for and oversight of host homes.
- Administers services through six regional offices which administer the hospital and community resources assigned to the region. To access mental health, substance abuse and crisis and emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call 1-800-715-4225. To locate treatment or support services for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse disorders or developmental disabilities, visit www.mygcal.com.

What is the governance structure of DBHDD?

- There are two boards that serve DBHDD: the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Georgia Behavior Health Coordinating Council.
- The Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities establishes the general policy followed by the Department. The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The Georgia Behavior Health Coordinating Council identifies overlapping services regarding funding and policy issues in the behavioral health system. The Council is made up of the Commissioners from DBHDD, Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, a State Senator, a State Representative, a parent representative, an adult consumer and the family member of a consumer.
- The Commissioner is both appointed and removed by the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor. Subject to law and the policy established by the Board, the Commissioner supervises, plans, and executes the functions vested in the Department.

Department of Justice Settlement - Following a series of newspaper articles about mistreatment of residents of Georgia mental health institutions, the United States filed an action against the State alleging violations of the rights of institutionalized individuals. In October 2010, the Department of Justice and the State reached a final settlement and a centerpiece of the agreement was a promise to provide housing for 2,000 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who would otherwise be in institutions, at risk of institutionalization, or homeless, along the lines of the plan. The settlement requires full compliance by 2015.

What Divisions and Services are under DBHDD?

- **Addiction Services** vary by region, but they include outpatient services (evaluation, diagnosis, and counseling), crisis services, detoxification, residential programs, DUI Schools, and group homes (for youth 13-17 year olds dealing with substance abuse-related disorders). In fiscal year 2012, there were 1,091 children and adolescents who received substance abuse services from the department. DBHDD contracts with providers in all six regions to provide outpatient and residential substance abuse treatment.
- Services for individuals with **severe and persistent mental illness** are aimed at those with a diagnosed mental illness, with level of functioning significantly affected by the mental illness, who are financially unable to pay for all or part of the services. Services are delivered through community services (counseling, supported employment, residential supports, etc.) and inpatient services (hospitalization). Services for children and families vary by region and may additionally include intensive family intervention, outdoor therapeutic programs, and respite for the family. In fiscal year 2012, 34,479 children and adolescents received mental health services from the department, including 610 in psychiatric residential treatment facilities.
- Services received by individuals with **developmental and intellectual disabilities** depend on a professional determination of medical necessity, level of care requirements, and available resources. Services may include physical therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, community living support and residential alternatives, respite, vehicle adaptation, supported employment, and more. Under the state's Olmstead Plan and in conjunction with a Department of Justice settlement, Georgia seeks to eliminate the involuntary institutionalization of individuals with developmental disabilities through services providing community-based care (see inset). As of July 2012 there are 5,535 children and adolescents on the planning list and 815 receiving community-based waiver services for developmental disabilities.
- DBHDD also administers programs in **suicide prevention**, **substance abuse prevention**, and **victim notification** (allowing the victim of a crime allegedly committed by an individual committed to DBHDD to request notification if that patient is released, escapes, or is readmitted to a DBHDD facility).
- **Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta** (GRHA) is a publicly-owned facility of the State of Georgia operated by DBHDD. Located in DeKalb County, GRHA operates licensed, accredited inpatient beds for three major program areas:
 1. **The Adult Mental Health (AMH) Program** includes three in-patient units totaling 110 beds. Each unit serves adults age 18 and up who have a variety of psychiatric diagnoses.
 2. **The Adult Forensic Services (AFS) Program** includes two inpatient units totaling 130 beds. Both AFS units admit patients who have been found incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity by the courts of the six metro Atlanta counties. Both units admit male and female patients 18 years of age or older with a variety of psychiatric diagnoses. Most of these patients are returned to jail upon discharge.
 3. **The Developmental Disabilities Program** includes one unit, the Skilled Nursing Unit (SNF). SNF Unit is a 53-bed unit with a current census of 25. The program is no longer admitting new patients. Patients on this unit are profound to severely developmentally disabled and have medical needs that require a skilled nursing level of care. The unit serves both male and female patients of any age. DBHDD closed the child and adolescent division of its developmental disability services in 2009. As of July 2012, DBHDD had two individuals with developmental disabilities under 18 in the state hospital system, both receiving Skilled Nursing Care services.
- In addition, GRHA operates two **Adolescent Residential Group Homes** for boys aged 16-18 who are receiving substance abuse counseling from local community service boards contracted with DBHDD. GRHA also operates three community integration homes that offer services to individuals who were once admitted to a state psychiatric facility but are on conditional release as deemed by the courts. Each home has six beds or less.

Department of Community Health (DCH)

<http://dch.georgia.gov>
2 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

404-656-4507
Commissioner David Cook
O.C.G.A. § 31-2-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Community Health do?

- The Department of Community Health (DCH) is responsible for four major health policy areas: Health Information Technology, Healthcare Facility Regulation, State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP), and Medicaid (including PeachCare for Kids).
- DCH is the lead agency for health care purchasing, planning and regulation in Georgia.
- The Department is designated as the single state agency for Medicaid, although the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Human Services also qualify individuals for Medicaid services and waivers to select populations.
- As of May 2012, Georgia had 859,411 children (ages 0-17) enrolled in Medicaid and 201,635 enrolled in PeachCare for Kids. As of March 2012, there were 134,583 SHBP dependents age 18 and under.
- Part of the Affordable Care Act reversed federal law prohibiting state employees with low and moderate income from enrolling their children in SCHIP programs like PeachCare for Kids. In January 2012, Georgia began allowing state employees to enroll eligible children in PeachCare, providing savings to families and the state and resulting in increased provider reimbursement rates.
- DCH's Office of General Counsel is responsible for reviewing applications for and issuing certificates of need for the construction of new medical provider facilities.

What is the governance structure of DCH?

- The Board of Community Health consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The Commissioner is subject to appointment and removal by the Governor.
- Subject to law and the general policy established by the Board, the Commissioner supervises, organizes, and executes the functions vested in the Department.

What Divisions and Services are under DCH?

- **Healthcare Facility Regulation** is responsible for professional standards regulation in health care facilities.
- **Health Information Technology (HIT)** heads the strategic efforts of the State of Georgia for health information technology adoption and health information exchange. Information Technology is also responsible for promoting project management standards throughout DCH.
- **State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)** provides health insurance coverage to state employees, school system employees, retirees and their dependents. The DCH Public Employee Health Benefits Division is responsible for day-to-day operations.
- **Medicaid** is a health insurance program jointly administered and funded by the federal and state government. It provides health care services for eligible, low-income children, pregnant women, or individuals who are elderly or who have disabilities.

- **Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)** unit supports the various systems used for the processing, collection, analysis and reporting of information needed to support Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids claim payment functions.
- **Non-Emergency Transportation Broker Services** provides transportation for eligible Medicaid members who need access to medical care or services.
- **Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentives Program** is for eligible Medicaid providers who adopt, implement, upgrade, and demonstrate meaningful use of certified Electronic Health Record (HER) technology.
- **Georgia Families** (Managed Care) is a program that provides health care services to enrolled members of Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids. It is a partnership between the Department of Community Health and three health care plans, also known as private care management organizations (CMOs).
- **Medicaid Estate Recovery** is a program, required by federal law, whereby Medicaid members with qualified assets reimburse the taxpayers for long term care and home and community-based services provided through Medicaid. Funds are recovered from the member's estate, after death, for the cost of these services. Individuals who apply for Medicaid and who may be subject to estate recovery will be advised of this program prior to determination as Medicaid eligible.
- **Georgia Long Term Care Partnership** is a joint program with the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the Department of Human Services. This program forms partnerships between Medicaid and private insurers to offer partnership policies for long term care that provide an alternative to transferring assets or "spending down" (using up your own money) to reach eligibility levels.
- **Waiver Programs** enable qualified individuals to receive home and community-based long term care services through Medicaid as an alternative to placement in nursing care facilities. This is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead ruling which held that it is unlawful discrimination to force people with disabilities

into institutions in order to receive services. Medicaid waiver programs under DCH include Service Options Using Resources in Community Environments (SOURCE), Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP), and the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP). Of these three, only GAPP is open to children, with its focus on providing services to medically fragile children with multiple system diagnoses. The Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver allows disabled children to enroll in Medicaid regardless of parental income in order to receive services at home. Other waiver programs, such as New Options Waiver Program (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), are available for people who meet the level of care requirements for Intermediate Care Facilities for Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) and are regulated by DCH and administered by DBHDD. In addition, the Community Care Services Program (CCSP) is a waiver program administered by DHS.

- **PeachCare for Kids** is the Georgia State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Social Security Act of 1997 authorized the development of a joint program between the federal government and the states named the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Under CHIP, federal funds are allocated to states provided the state matches the funds; these funds are then used to insure children who meet state requirements promulgated within federal limits. The program attempts to expand coverage to children who fall outside the income requirements for Medicaid. Each state sets its own eligibility guidelines for inclusion in the CHIP program beyond a federally mandated minimum. Any changes that a state wishes to make to its CHIP program must first be approved by the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services as a condition for the receipt of federal funds. States have broad flexibility in establishing income eligibility and payment requirements for their program. Georgia's CHIP program, PeachCare for Kids, sets the upper limit at 235% above the federal poverty level (FPL) and covers children from birth through age 18. Georgia families also must contribute premiums up to \$70/month based on income and number of children except for children under 6 years old who are enrolled at no cost. Co-payments also are required and set by Georgia law.

Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

<http://decals.ga.gov>
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE,
754 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-656-5957; Toll Free: 1-888-442-7735
Commissioner Bobby Cagle: 404-651-7432
O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Early Care and Learning do?

- Administers programs and services for the operation of voluntary pre-kindergarten, also known as “Georgia’s Pre-K Program.”
- Administers programs and services for the operation, management, and regulation of preschool and child development programs.
- Establishes and collects annual fees for licensure, registration, or commission of early care and education programs.
- The Nutrition Services Division of Bright from the Start administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Georgia. These federal nutrition programs funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ensure that children and adults have access to nutritious meals while they are in a day care setting and during the summer when school is not in session.
- Provides technical assistance, training, and support to families and child care providers who care for children with special needs.

What is the governance structure of DECAL?

- The Board of Early Care and Learning consists of one member from each congressional district appointed by the Governor for five-year terms. The Board oversees the budget, determines policies and promulgates rules for the operation of the Department.
- The DECAL Commissioner is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Commissioner employs all personnel of the Department, subject to the law and the provisions of the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the Board.

What programs are under DECAL?

- **Georgia’s Pre-K Program** is an educational program funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education that prepares Georgia’s four year old children for Kindergarten. For the 2010-2011 school year, the total funded cost for Georgia’s Pre-K was \$355,016,059, the funded cost per child was \$4,226, and the total actual enrollment was 82,608. For the 2011-2012 school year the total funded cost was \$300,691,000, the funded cost per child was \$3,496, and total actual enrollment was 82,868. Georgia’s Pre-K Program is voluntary for families and for providers.
- DECAL houses the **Head Start** state collaboration office, which strives to align Georgia’s Head Start programs with the state’s K-12 education standards and the federal Head Start program performance standards. Head Start is a federal program overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In FY11, operating funds for Georgia Head Start programs serving ages three and four, including expansion, were \$162,223,893. The average cost per child for 22,369 children was \$7,252. Operating funds for Early Head Start, which serves children under three years, were

\$25,358,039 for 2,743 children, again including expansion. The average cost per child was \$9,245.

- **Child Care Services** – DECAL is responsible for the licensing and monitoring of approximately 10,000 center-based and home-based child care facilities. There are three types of child care programs licensed by DECAL:
 1. **Family Day Care Home** – A program that operates in a private residential home less than 24 hours per day. It may provide care for three children, but no more than six, under the age of 18 for pay.
 2. **Group Day Care Home** – A program operated by a person, society, agency, corporation, institution, or group that receives pay for group care. The group day care home may provide care for seven to 18 children under the age of 18 for less than 24 hours per day.
 3. **Child Care Learning Centers** – A program operated by a person, society, agency, corporation, institution, or group that receives pay for group care. The child care learning center may provide care for 19 or more children under the age of 18 for less than 24 hours per day.
- **Subsidized Child Care Assistance** – Subsidized child care in Georgia is provided through the **Childcare and Parent Services** (CAPS) program to help low-income families afford quality child care. The CAPS program can subsidize the cost of child care for children under age 13 and can be extended to 18 if the child has special needs. DECAL oversees the CAPS program providers and services, but the Division of Family and Children Services determines family qualifications for the program.
- **Even Start Family Literacy Program** – Even Start is a family-oriented program that focuses on literacy. Parents are assessed by income, level of literacy and English language proficiency, and must have at least one child age seven years or younger to participate. Teen parents are eligible if they are within the state’s compulsory school attendance age. Teen parents beyond the state’s compulsory school attendance age may also participate if they are attending high school or an alternative educational program. Georgia received \$2,165,119 in Federal funds for Even Start Family Literacy for the Federal funding period July 7, 2010 - September 30, 2011. Even Start Family Literacy Program was not funded for the Federal FY11, and all services will be discontinued by September 30, 2012.

Department of Education (DOE)

<http://doe.k12.ga.us>
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-2800; Toll Free: 1-800-311-3627
State School Superintendent Dr. John D. Barge

What does the Department of Education do?

- The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) is the state agency charged with the fiscal and administrative management of certain aspects of K-12 public education, including the implementation of federal and state mandates, subject to supervision and oversight by the State Board of Education.
- There are 195 school systems in Georgia, employing 110,429 teachers. Locally elected boards of education or the Department of Juvenile Justice governs 181 of these systems. The remaining 14 are either State Schools or State Chartered Special Schools.
- In the 2011-2012 school year, there were a total of 1,639,077 public school students in Georgia attending a total of 2,289 schools. Of those students, 58.7% were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 10.4% received Special Education, and 5.1% had limited English proficiency.

What is the governance structure of the DOE?

- The **State Board of Education** consists of one member from each congressional district appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for a term of seven years. The Chairperson of the Board is elected by the State Board members.
- The Board establishes and enforces standards for operation of all public elementary and secondary schools and local units of administration in Georgia.
- The State Board of Education is authorized, after a reasonable attempt at consultation with the State School Superintendent, to organize and reorganize the Department of Education and to prescribe its duties, functions, and operations as the State Board may deem necessary.
- The **State School Superintendent** is a constitutionally elected executive officer and is the executive officer of the State Board of Education.

What Offices under the State Superintendent comprise the Department of Education?

- **Office of Standards, Instruction and Assessment** – provides materials to teachers and students in preparation for graduation, assesses student achievement, and provides data to teachers and schools.
- **Office of Finance and Business Operations** – sees to the financial needs of the Department of Education and schools in Georgia.
- **Office of Policy and External Affairs** – maintains divisions that deal with charter schools, communication, human resources, policy and state schools.
- **Office of Education Support and Improvement** – has several divisions, including Learning Support, Migrant Education and School Improvement.
- **Office of Technology Services** – integrates technology into the classroom and builds infrastructure so information can be given to decision makers in Georgia.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

<http://dhs.georgia.gov>
2 Peachtree Street, NW # 29-202
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142

404-651-6316
Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq.
O.C.G.A. § 49-2-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Human Services (DHS) do?

- DHS delivers a wide range of human services designed to promote self-sufficiency, safety and well being.
- The Department is one of the largest agencies in state government with an annual budget of \$1.8 billion and 10,000 employees. DHS provides services to county governments, including the supervision of county departments that administer social services.
- The Department also administers or supervises all county Departments of Family and Children Services, each of which is run by a county board and a county director.

What is the governance structure of DHS?

- The Board has nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The DHS Commissioner is both appointed and removed by the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor.
- Subject to law and the policy established by the Board, the Commissioner supervises, directs, and executes the functions vested in the Department.

What Divisions and Services are under DHS?

- **Division of Aging Services** – Administers a statewide system of services for senior citizens, their families and caregivers.
- **Division of Child Support Services** – Helps children by enforcing parental responsibility to pay financial support. DCSS services include assistance with locating non-custodial parents, confirming paternity, establishing and enforcing child support and medical support orders, and collecting and distributing payments. DCSS also provides the Georgia Fatherhood Services Network and the Access and Visitation Program, both devoted to increasing non-custodial parent involvement in a child's life. DCSS has 404,000 cases in Georgia, representing 538,000 children.
- **Office of Residential Child Care** – Monitors, inspects and licenses Child Caring Institutions that provide 24-hour residential therapeutic treatment (group homes), Child Placing Agencies (Foster Care, Adoption), Outdoor Child Caring Programs (Child Caring Institutions that provide therapeutic outdoor activities in a wilderness environment), Children's Transitional Care Centers and Maternity Homes.
- **Division of Family and Children Services** – See Page 10.

Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

<http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov>
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 18-486
Atlanta, GA 30303

404-651-9361
Division Director Ron Scroggy

What does the Division of Family and Children Services do?

- The primary goal of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is to assist and support families to ensure children are safe from abuse and to help families become more self-sufficient.
- DFCS investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; helps low-income, out-of-work parents get back on their feet; assists with child care costs for grandparents raising grandchildren, or low-income parents or guardians who are working or in job training, and provides support services and programs to help troubled families.
- The Division has nearly 7,000 staff members.

DFCS is made up of two units: Child Welfare and the Office of Family Independence (OFI).

SOCIAL SERVICES / CHILD WELFARE

- Encompasses Child Protective Services (CPS), Adoptions and Foster Care.
- Case managers, located in 159 county DFCS offices, provide a variety of social services including:
 1. Family assessment services,
 2. Child protective services (CPS) to abused and neglected children,
 3. Treatment services to families involved with CPS,
- Recruitment, placement and treatment services for children in foster care including location of adoptive homes when parental rights have been terminated.
- CPS staff complete an assessment of a family based on reports of child abuse or neglect and provide services to protect the child and strengthen the family. In 2010, CPS workers investigated 26,339 reports of child maltreatment. At the end of 2010 there were 7,065 children in foster care. 1,205 adoptions were finalized in 2010.
- The Adoption Unit is committed to educating the public, private partners and DFCS field staff in regards to best practices in adoption and to facilitate and support the adoption of children in the permanent custody of DFCS.

OFFICE OF FAMILY INDEPENDENCE (OFI)

- The Office of Family Independence refers to all eligibility programs including Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Family Medicaid, and Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid (ABD), and Child Care (CAPS).
- All OFI programs have an income-eligible component as well as other eligibility criteria such as an age requirement.
 1. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – Formerly known as food stamps, SNAP provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help pay the cost of food. In 2012, 770,000 children in Georgia receive SNAP. Children who receive SNAP are also eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.
 2. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** – A monthly cash assistance program for low-income families with children under age 18. To be eligible for TANF benefits, a child under 18 must reside in the home and be deprived of the care of at least one parent due to a variety of reasons. To be eligible for TANF, applicants must participate in work or work-related activities (such as classes designed to teach the applicant how to look for a job, how to write a resume, or how to handle an interview).
 3. **Family Medicaid, Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid (ABD), and Right from the Start Medicaid** – Individuals may apply for Medicaid at any local DFCS office, by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or at designated agencies.
 4. **After School Services** – DHS funds provide grants to after school and summer programs for youth ages 6-19.
 5. **Emergency Food Assistance Program** – A federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income persons in Georgia by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.
 6. **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** – Limited funds are available to pay home heating and cooling costs for low-income eligible families.
 7. **Right from the Start Medicaid (RSM) Outreach Project** – Assists children, pregnant women, and women with breast or cervical cancer to receive comprehensive health services through RSM and related programs. RSM Medicaid Eligibility Specialists work to help families obtain access to free and low-cost health care coverage. There are twenty RSM teams stationed across the state. RSM also works closely with PeachCare for Kids and Georgia Partnership for Caring for those who are not eligible for Medicaid.
 8. **Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC)** – Provides comprehensive academic support services focusing on improving the educational outcomes and academic achievement of children and youth who are currently in the custody of DFCS.

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

<http://www.djj.state.ga.us/>
3408 Covington Highway
Decatur, GA 30032

404-508-6500, Fax: 404-508-7289
Office of the Commissioner: 404-508-7200
Commissioner L. Gale Buckner
O.C.G.A. § 49-4A-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Juvenile Justice do?

- The Department coordinates supervision, detention, and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents awaiting trial or committed to the state's custody by the Juvenile Courts.
- DJJ does not provide services to children under the jurisdiction of the Superior Courts. The Superior Courts have exclusive jurisdiction over the trial of any child 13 to 17 years of age who is alleged to have committed any of the following offenses: murder, voluntary manslaughter, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery, or armed robbery (if committed with a firearm).
 1. Before indictment, the district attorney may, after investigation and for extraordinary cause, decline to prosecute in Superior Court and transfer jurisdiction to the Juvenile Court.
 2. After indictment, the Superior Court may, after investigation and for extraordinary cause, transfer jurisdiction to the Juvenile Court for any case involving a child 13 to 17 years of age alleged to have committed any offense listed above which is not punishable by loss of life, imprisonment for life without possibility of parole, or confinement for life in a penal institution.
- DJJ has 26 facilities and 92 court services offices throughout the state.
- DBHDD provides casework services and costs for runaways, such as the cost of returning runaways to their home communities.

What is the governance structure of DJJ?

- The Board of Juvenile Justice establishes the general policy followed by the Department, including development of rehabilitation programs and adopting regulations for youth development centers and juvenile detention facilities. The Board consists of fifteen members, with at least one but not more than two from each congressional district, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for five-year terms.
- The Commissioner is both appointed and removed by the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor.
- Subject to law and the policies of the Board, the Commissioner supervises, directs, organizes, and executes the functions of the Department.

What Divisions and Services are under the DJJ?

- **Division of Youth Services (DYS)** – DYS administers the Department’s Facilities and Programs, including:
 1. Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDC) provide temporary, secure care and supervision to youth who have been charged with offenses or who have been adjudicated delinquent and are awaiting placement. In addition, youth who have been committed to the custody of DJJ are sometimes placed in an RYDC while awaiting treatment in a community program or a long term facility. There are 20 RYDCs.
 2. Youth Development Campuses (YDC) provide secure care, supervision and treatment services to youth who have been committed to the custody of DJJ for long term programs. There are seven YDCs.
 3. In FY 12, DJJ served 11,261 children in RYDCs and YDCs (9,746 in RYDC only, 511 in YDC only, and 1004 in both).
- **Division of Administrative Services (DAS)** – DAS handles contracts and grants, technology and information services, engineering, audits, federal programs, and financial services.
- **Division of Support Services (DSS)** – DSS oversees the Office of Continuous Improvement, Office of Transportation, Criminal History Unit, Office of Training and Office of Legislative Affairs.
- **Division of Programs & Education Services** – This Division handles health services, education and behavioral health services. DJJ has its own school system, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The curriculum taught at DJJ schools meets the standards of the Georgia Department of Education. Special education and related services for students diagnosed with cognitive, behavioral, and learning problems are available. Other services include GED preparation, vocational education, and transition services.

Department of Public Health (DPH)

<http://www.health.state.ga.us>
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta
GA 30303-3186

404-657-2700
Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D.
O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-1, et seq.

What does the Department of Public Health do?

- Provides investigation and laboratory facilities and services for the detection and control of disease, disorders, and disabilities, as well as research and investigation concerning reduction in incidence of such.
- Establishes quarantine, surveillance, or isolation of persons and animals exposed to a disease communicable to humans.
- Cooperates with agencies and departments of the state and federal government in the health aspects of civil defense and emergency preparedness and response.
- Inspects public and private property to determine the presence of conditions deleterious to health or to determine compliance with health regulations.
- Houses the State Office of Vital Records, which provides records and data concerning vital events to Georgians (defined as birth, death, fetal death (stillbirth), induced termination of pregnancy, marriage and divorce). Birth and death records are maintained from 1919 to the present. Original records are filed, except marriage and divorce reports.

What is the governance structure of DPH?

- The Board of Public Health consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The Commissioner of Public Health is both appointed and removed by the Governor.
- Subject to law and the general policy established by the Board, the Commissioner supervises, organizes, and executes the functions vested in the Department.

What Maternal and Child Health Programs are under DPH?

- **The Office of Women's Health** – Serves in an advisory capacity to the Executive and Legislative branches in matters relating to women's health.
- **Vaccines for Children (VFC)** – Supplies free vaccines to participating providers for children up to age 19 who are Medicaid-enrolled, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaska Native. VFC has 2,415,087 doses scheduled to provide for the VFC eligible population for federal fiscal year 2012 (Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012). In federal fiscal year 2011, DPH provided a total of 2,534,765 doses for VFC eligible children (October 2010-September 2011). DPH also ships doses for the PeachCare for Kids population, but those doses are funded through SCHIP funding via the Department of Community Health.
- **Children 1st** – Promotes early identification of all children with conditions (medical or socio-environmental) that place them at risk for poor health and/or developmental outcomes so that interventions can be made to ensure the optimal

health and development of the child. Participation is voluntary and there are no financial requirements. During fiscal year 2011, 46,905 newborns/children were identified as at risk for needing medical and/or developmental services. Of that number, 16,032 children were linked to a primary health care provider (private and public).

- **Children and Youth with Special Needs** – Provides program development, leadership, guidance, and resources to Georgia’s 18 health districts in the development and provision of a comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated system of services for children and youth with developmental and chronic health conditions. Such programs include Babies Can’t Wait (BCW) (serving infants and toddlers through age three with developmental delays or disabilities with early intervention services and education) and Children’s Medical Services (CMS) (serving children through age 21 with chronic medical conditions by providing or paying for medical services). 12,148 children were served by BCW in FY 2011; 8,925 children served by CMS during 4Q11 (April-June 2011).
- **Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD)** – Funds programs addressing factors affecting teen behavior, including drug use, violence, and teen pregnancy. From July 1, 2011 thru March 31, 2012, the AHYD Program provided youth-focused group activities and events to 31,638 unduplicated adolescents.
- **Oral Health Unit** – Works to prevent oral disease among Georgia’s children through education, prevention, and early treatment. Programs include community water fluoridation, school-linked fluoride supplement programs for high risk children, dental health education, screenings, referrals, and treatment.
- **WIC Program** – Georgia’s WIC is the nation’s fifth largest Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. The Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the federal level and provides funds to state agencies for implementation. At the state level, WIC is administered by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program, Office of Nutrition and WIC. WIC provides nutrition education and supplemental foods to women, infants, and children in families with income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level or enrolled in Medicaid, who are at risk for nutritional deficiencies. Participant categories consist of pregnant, postpartum and breast-feeding women, infants and children up to their fifth birthday.
- **Newborn Screening Programs** – The Georgia Newborn Screening Program ensures all newborns receive appropriate screening, follow-up, and medical services. The Newborn Screening Program uses tests applied to blood samples drawn at birth to screen for 29 conditions including some genetic disorders, endocrine conditions, and hearing loss. These screenings are covered by private insurance, Medicaid or private fees.

Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF)

<http://children.georgia.gov>
55 Park Place, NE Suite 410
Atlanta, GA 30303

404-656-5600, Fax: 404-656-5601
Executive Director Katie Jo Ballard
O.C.G.A. § 19-14-1, & § 49-5-132

What does the Governor's Office for Children and Families do?

- Provides state and federal funds to implement prevention and intervention strategies for children and families involved in Georgia's juvenile justice system.
- Carries out child abuse prevention and community-based service programs, as well as duties related to mentoring.
- Prepares and publishes fundamental child-related information.
- Develops legislative proposals and executive policy proposals that reflect the priorities of the child-related systems of this state.
- Coordinates all components of the children's service systems of Georgia and assists in establishing statewide goals and standards.
- Provides for coordination and communication between providers of children and youth services, including health, education, and social services.
- Administers funds under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.
- Co-chairs (with the First Lady) and administers the Georgia Children's Cabinet.

What is the governance structure of the GOCF?

- The advisory board consists of at least 15 members appointed by the Governor. At least one-fifth of the board's members are under the age of 24 at the time of their appointment, and at least three members have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or the foster care system.
- The Executive Director of the office is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The director contracts with other agencies or persons for the rendering and affording of such services as will best enable the office to carry out its duties.

What Divisions and Services are under the GOCF?

- **Family Violence Division** allocates funding to Georgia communities to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Division engages service providers, knowledgeable others, expert organizations, and sister agencies to develop a state response that promotes capacity building and community response. In FY 11, the Division funded 24 sexual assault centers, serving 3,890 adult victims and 1,685 children, as well as 46 domestic violence shelters, serving 32,517 adult victims and 20,333 children.
- Guided by federal law as directed by the U.S. Department of Justice, GOCF employs the **Justice Division** to provide funding for programs that demonstrate a clear commitment to the principles of restorative justice for youth. Division accomplishments include helping maintain Georgia's compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention Act, keeping Georgia eligible to receive \$17,619,451 in federal juvenile justice funds over the past 5 years (over 90% of funds were distributed to local communities), and providing other federal funds to Georgia juvenile justice programs across the state.

- The **Prevention and Family Support Division** develops, manages, and monitors Georgia's statewide Child Abuse and Prevention Plan and Georgia's State Plan for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. It also supports a number of programs through federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant funds, including Better

Brains for Babies, Strengthening Families Georgia, University of Georgia Center for Family Research, Family Connection Partnership (including KIDS Count), Parent to Parent of Georgia, and Sheltering Arms Workshops

- The **Youth Development Division** provides training, curricula, and activities to build critical thinking skills, prioritize school engagement and high school graduation, teach abstinence, and avoid risky behaviors. The Division also convened the nation's first statewide response to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and continues to oversee work and education efforts in this area.

GEORGIA CHILDREN'S CABINET

- The Georgia Children's Cabinet consists of all state agency heads that work with child populations as well as select community, philanthropic, education, and business stakeholders. This group works to align state and community programs and inform state decision making to improve delivery of care to children.
- More specifically, the Cabinet seeks to eliminate gaps and duplications of services for children, increase efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare and juvenile justice resources, ensure that all children begin life healthy and remain mentally and physically well throughout their lives with access to appropriate primary care and early screening, and ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn and remain on a trajectory of success throughout their school-aged years.
- In September 2012, the Children's Cabinet merged with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.
- The Cabinet is chaired by the First Lady of Georgia.
- Members of the Cabinet include:
 - Associate Superintendent, Department of Education
 - Chief of Staff, Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Chief Operating Officer, Department of Community Health
 - Commissioner, Bright from the Start, Department of Early Care and Learning
 - Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
 - Commissioner, Department of Community Health
 - Commissioner, Department of Human Services
 - Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Commissioner, Department of Public Health
 - Deputy Commissioner, Division of Youth Services, Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Director, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
 - Director, Division of Family and Children Services, Department of Human Services
 - Director, Maternal and Child Health Program, Department of Public Health
 - Director, Office of the Child Advocate
 - Disability Services Ombudsman
 - Division Director, Health and Human Services Division, Office of Planning and Budget
 - President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
 - State Superintendent of Schools

Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)

<http://www.gaosa.org>
205 Jesse Hill, Jr. Drive SE
952 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, GA 30334

404-463-1150; Fax: 404-463-1163
Executive Director Bonnie Holliday
O.C.G.A. §20-14-25

What does the Governor's Office of Student Achievement do?

- The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) is charged by law with inspecting academic records of P-16 schools to ensure that education institutions are faithful to performance accountability requirements.
- GOSA was created as a single statewide accountability system to establish indicators of performance, rate schools and school systems, develop annual report cards for elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and formulate a system of school awards and interventions.
- GOSA strives to increase student achievement and school completion across Georgia.
- GOSA analyzes and communicates statewide data regarding student achievement and school completion, and provides policy support to the Governor.
- GOSA's direct affiliation is with the Governor's office, but it also works closely with education agencies, including the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), the University System of Georgia (USG), the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

What is the governance structure of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement?

- The Education Coordinating Council sets the general policy for GOSA. The Council consists of the Governor, the State School Superintendent, the Chairperson of the State Board of Education, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, the Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia, the Chairperson of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, the Executive Secretary of the Professional Standards Commission, the Chairperson of the Professional Standards Commission, and the Director of the Department of Early Care and Learning. The Governor is the Chairperson of the Council.
- The chief administrative and executive officer of the Office is the Executive Director, who is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Subject to the general policy established by the Education Coordinating Council, the Director is responsible for the performance and exercise of the duties, responsibilities, functions, powers, and authority of the Director and the Office.

What activities are performed by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement?

- **Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS)** – Under the No Child Left Behind legislation, and as mandated by state law, Georgia is required to develop a Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which includes awards and consequences. Awards are presented to schools that show excellence in student achievement and/or progress in student achievement. Award-winning schools must meet criteria based on the results of the most recent two years of Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). Criteria are based on Full Academic Year (FAY) students.

- **Academic Audit Program** – An academic audit is an evaluation of a school or Local Education Agency (LEA) to accomplish two primary objectives: 1) Ascertain the validity or reliability of reported data; and 2) Assess a school's or LEA's internal controls process related to data collection and test administration. GOSA may audit a school or LEA at any time, but the impetus for an audit often falls into one of three categories: 1) One or more student performance levels are significantly above or below expectations; 2) Standardized assessment data indicates irregularity; or 3) A random selection for a general compliance audit. A **validation review** is the first response to the detection of irregularities

in data or a pattern of data reported by a public school or LEA in Georgia. The appropriate school official is contacted and asked to provide a written explanation of the causes of the irregularities. If GOSA concludes that the written explanation is not substantial enough to explain the data irregularities, an **on-site audit** is performed. If financial irregularities are found, the auditor refers the matter to the Georgia Department of Audits or other agencies for further review. In the case of a **general compliance audit** in which schools are chosen at random, the GOSA auditor often proceeds directly to an on-site audit.

Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

<http://oca.georgia.gov>
270 Washington Street SW, 8th Floor
Suite 8101, Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-4200; Fax: 404-656-5200
Director of the Office of the Child Advocate
Tonya C. Boga O.C.G.A. § 15-11-172

What does the Office of the Child Advocate do?

- Offers advice, assistance, and aid regarding Georgia's child-serving agencies, child policy, at-risk families, and foster children of the state.
- Contracts with experts in fields including medicine, psychology, education, juvenile justice, and child welfare to support the work of the Advocate.
- Investigates complaints concerning any act of an agency or contractor that adversely affects the health, safety, or welfare of children.
- Of the 315 referrals received in 2011 by OCA, 290 were assigned as an investigation. Of the 290 cases assigned as investigations, child death, near fatality or serious injury reports accounted for 150, or nearly 52%.
- Inspects all institutions, facilities, and residences, public and private, where a child has been placed by a court or by the Division of Family and Children Services, Department of Human Services and is currently residing.
- Applies to the Governor to bring legal action to require an agency to take or refrain from taking any action required or prohibited by law involving the protection of children.
- Engages in programs of public education, including trainings for a variety of child welfare professionals and volunteers.

What is the governance structure of the OCA?

- The Advocate is appointed by the Governor for a term of three years and must have knowledge of the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, and the legal system.
- The Office of the Child Advocate's Advisory Board consists of seven members selected by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

What Divisions and Services are under the OCA?

- **Child Abuse Protocol Committee (CAPC)** – Establishes a written protocol to address procedures used in counties when investigating and prosecuting cases arising from alleged child abuse. CAPC also addresses methods used in coordinating treatment programs for the perpetrator, the family and the child. CAPC has an emphasis on child maltreatment cases of children who are still alive.
- **Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP)** – Child fatality review was mandated by the Georgia General Assembly in 1990 and placed under the supervision of the OCA in 2008. The CFRP has an emphasis on child deaths, regardless of whether the death resulted from child maltreatment.

Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner (OCI)

<http://www.gainsurance.org>
Two Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
West Tower, Suite 704, Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-2070; Toll Free: 800-656-2298
Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens
O.C.G.A. § 33-2-1, et seq.

What does the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Do?

- Ensure that the public's interests are served through professional oversight of the insurance and industrial loan industries, consumer protection, and educational activities.
- Facilitates professional regulation, coordination and uniformity among state regulators and public access to services and information in the insurance product marketplace.

How does the Office serve children?

- Regulates private insurance policies for children.
- Administers programs on fire safety and prevention to children in schools and throughout the community.
- The Commissioner's office has over 420 certified child day care instructors who can teach child care professionals the fire safety training needed as required by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

What is the governance structure of the Office?

- The Commissioner of Insurance is a constitutionally elected executive officer and chief officer of the Office of Insurance.
- The Office does not have a Board of Directors. The Commissioner has full power and authority to make rules and regulations to organize the Office, assign duties to staff, and other rules and regulations to carry out the functions of the Office.

What Divisions and Services serving children are under the Office?

- **Insurance Division** – consists of seven sections for the regulation of insurance, including: Regulatory Services Section, Examination Section, Property and Casualty Section, Life and Accident and Sickness Section, Agents Licensing Section, Enforcement Section, and the Fraud Investigation Unit.
- **Safety Fire Division** (Georgia State Fire Marshall's Office) – investigates and examines construction and engineering techniques, construction materials and fire prevention and protection techniques. The Commissioner adopts rules, regulations, codes and standards that have statewide application as minimum fire safety standards.
- **Consumer Services Division** – Investigates policyholder complaints and responds to public inquiries. The Division contains a Managed Care Unit, which works to resolve complex claims problems between health care providers and managed care insurers.
- **Public Education Division** – Works with different organizations throughout Georgia to provide fire safety training and education, including mandatory training of child day care workers and online reporting of fire and severe weather drills for all public and private K-12 schools.

ABOUT VOICES

Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia's Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable, and connected to their family and community. It is our mission to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well being of all of Georgia's children.

To fulfill our mission and, ultimately, make life better for Georgia's children, we provide the necessary research-based information, measures, collective voice and proposed legislation to help guide decision makers in the right direction – that is, supporting policies that ensure Georgia's children grow up to be healthy, educated and productive citizens. Learn more at www.georgiavoices.org/about/, and find us on Facebook and Twitter.

STATE SERVICES HOTLINE

If you need a state service but don't know which state agency or person to call for help, dial 1.800.georgia (1.800.436.7442) for immediate assistance.

In the Atlanta area, the number is 678.georgia (678.436.7442).
Agents are on duty Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm (closed on state holidays).



VOICES
for
Georgia's Children

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