



STATE OF GEORGIA

# Older Adults Cabinet

2 0 1 7   A N N U A L   R E P O R T



## CHAIRWOMEN

**Sandra Deal** | First Lady, State of Georgia

**Robyn A. Crittenden** | Commissioner, Department of Human Services

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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# A B O U T

In 2017, Gov. Nathan Deal announced the creation of Georgia’s Older Adults Cabinet, a committee working to enhance the state’s capacity to serve older adults. The Older Adults Cabinet seeks to identify ways for Georgia to improve the well-being of its older residents by bringing together state agency heads whose work supports older Georgians, as well as stakeholders in the business, philanthropic and education communities.

Co-chaired by First Lady Sandra Deal and Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner Robyn A. Crittenden, the Cabinet examines and assesses issues impacting older Georgians such as: healthcare, nutrition, transportation, housing, safety, abuse, neglect and exploitation, well-being, workforce development and economic security. The Cabinet held its first meeting on January 26, 2017.

The Cabinet’s executive committee comprises leaders representing DHS, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Community Affairs, Community Health, Public Health, Transportation, Early Care and Learning, the Technical College System of Georgia, Family and Children Services and Bureau of Investigation agencies. The larger committee includes partners from the University System of Georgia, providers of health care and community-based nutrition programs, advocacy organizations and members of the Georgia General Assembly. The Cabinet’s purpose is to provide a place for policymakers and state agencies to work with stakeholders to develop strategic planning focused on improving the well-being of Georgia’s aging population.

## **Vision**

Living Longer, Living Safely, Living Well

## **Goals**

- Analyze existing programs and services for older Georgians.
- Enhance the state’s capacity to provide services to older and vulnerable adults.
- Commit to collaborative approaches that allow older adults to safely remain in their homes and communities.

## **Priorities**

- Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
- Workforce Development
- Access to Services

# C A B I N E T P R I O R I T I E S

## **Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE)**

The ANE priority area centers on increasing awareness of the abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults. This priority area also encourages collaborative approaches to protecting Georgia's aging population and individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementias in communities and long-term care facilities across the state.

## **Workforce Development**

The Workforce Development priority area includes a focus on developing practical strategies to enhance workforce development to better serve the aging population. These efforts include providing career opportunities in the aging and other related fields, recruiting and retaining staff and providing more specific training for staff who work in the aging field.

## **Access to Services**

The third priority area, Access to Services, underscores the importance of educating Georgia's older adults and the public about the helpful resources that exist to serve older adults. It also focuses on exploring barriers to accessing key resources such as transportation, housing, and healthcare.

# O U T C O M E S

## **1. Analyze existing programs and services for older Georgians.**

### **The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)**

The ADRC is a coordinated system of partnering organizations that are dedicated to serving older individuals, individuals with disabilities of all ages, families, caregivers and professionals. Georgia's ADRC currently serves all 159 counties and is critical in providing access to services to older Georgians. Increasing public knowledge of this invaluable resource is key in meeting the needs of Georgia's seniors.

### **At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics (ACT) Specialist Certification course**

The Division of Aging Services Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU) conducts a two-day ACT training which is open to primary and secondary responders including law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, EMS, employees of financial institutions, regulatory/social/victim service agencies, key healthcare providers, coroners, medical examiners and other professions who respond to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults (the elderly and persons age 18+ with disabilities). Topics covered in the ACT Certification class include Georgia Law, types and indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, financial crimes targeting older adults and adults with disabilities, undue influence, Power of Attorney, guardianship, conservatorship, investigations, suspicious deaths, human trafficking, and crimes in facilities.

### **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving Dealing with Dementia Workshop**

Developed by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI), the Dealing with Dementia program provides tips and strategies for caregivers on best practices for caring for their loved ones and themselves. The goal is for Alzheimer's and dementia family caregivers to gain a better understanding of dementia, utilize strategies to effectively manage problem behaviors, and handle caregiver stress and burnout.

### **Gwinnett Technical College Nursing Program**

Gwinnett Technical College incorporates the aging population in many of its degree programs including the Associate Degree Nursing Program, Medical Assisting Program, Patient Care Assisting Program (A-NF). Students gain critical knowledge of gerontology through simulations focused on older adults, clinical placements in nursing homes, home health facilities and hospices, and other workforce development opportunities. Collegiate programs like this one enable more specific and expansive workforce readiness training for individuals interested in careers related to aging.

# O U T C O M E S

## **2. Enhance the state's capacity to provide services to older and vulnerable adults.**

### **WSB-TV Highlights new Power of Attorney Law**

In December 2017, State Rep. Chuck Efstation spoke with WSB-TV's Jocelyn Dorsey about the Power of Attorney Bill. In the interview, he discussed the importance of the law in preventing financial exploitation of Georgia's older adults and individuals with disabilities.

### **Attorney General Chris Carr to participate in national effort to combat elder abuse**

In August of 2017, Attorney General Chris Carr announced his participation in an effort led by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) which will focus on strengthening nationwide actions to combat elder abuse. NAAG President and Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt will lead the bipartisan working group.

### **The Georgia Alzheimer's Project (GAP)**

DHS received \$4.12 million for the Georgia Alzheimer's Project (GAP) during the 2017 legislative session. Emory University will be the "hub" of GAP. Emory University is the state of Georgia's only National Institutes of Health (NIH) designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

The Georgia Alzheimer's Project will create a network of Memory Assessment Centers (MACs) to improve care and accessibility of care for Georgians living with dementias as well as their caregivers. This project addresses current gaps in links to community resources. GAP leaders will partner with academic, community and professional organizations to:

- Improve primary care clinician screenings, referrals to specialized services, and care of Georgian's living with dementia and their caregivers through education and training.
- Establish MACs around the state to improve access to early and accurate diagnosis of dementias as well as improve long-term outcomes for people living with dementia and their caregivers, which will include community resources.
- Establish an oversight and ongoing evaluation plan to monitor and assess project success.

# O U T C O M E S

## **3. Commit to collaborative approaches that allow older adults to safely remain in their homes and communities.**

### **Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Division of Aging Services (DAS) and Alzheimer's Association collaboration**

In August of 2017, GBI hosted a Symposium on Alzheimer's and Related Dementias in collaboration with DAS and the Alzheimer's Association. This symposium was specifically targeted to provide education on understanding the disease, responding effectively in various settings, search and rescue, and resources available in Georgia to assist law enforcement. Governor Nathan Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, and DHS Commissioner Robyn Crittenden delivered special remarks.

### **GBI's At-Risk Adult ANE Work Group**

GBI formed the At-Risk Adult ANE work group in 2012 to focus on identifying obstacles, make recommendations, create initiatives and evaluate legislation as it pertains to the abuse, neglect and exploitation of at-risk adults. The work group is comprised of members from various federal, state and local agencies and meets regularly to discuss ANE-related topics.

### **HOPE Career Grant**

The Hope Career Grant is an opportunity for technical school students of any age to pursue careers specifically aligned with one of 12 industries in which there are more jobs available in Georgia than there are skilled workers to fill them. The HOPE Career Grant is formerly known as the Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant and involves industries that have been identified as strategically important to the state's economic growth, many of which directly intersect with careers in aging. The HOPE Career Grants provides a unique workforce development opportunity that stakeholders in the business, education communities, and state agencies can use to work collaboratively to serve older adults.

### **ANE Intra-Agency Document**

Members of the Cabinet worked collaboratively to create an educational document pertaining to ANE. The one-pager includes definitions of abuse, neglect and exploitation, instructions on how to report suspected abuse and information on the Uniform Power of Attorney Law. This informational resource is posted on all Cabinet members' websites to increase public awareness of ANE.

# M E M B E R S

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Sandra Deal**

First Lady of Georgia  
Co-Chair

### **Robyn A. Crittenden**

Commissioner, Department of Human Services  
Co-Chair

### **Matt Arthur**

Commissioner, Technical College System of  
Georgia

### **Frank Berry**

Commissioner, Department of Community  
Health

### **Abby Cox**

Director, Department of Human Services  
Division of Aging Services

### **Chris Carr**

Attorney General, State of Georgia Office of  
Attorney General

### **Judy Fitzgerald**

Commissioner, Department of Behavioral  
Health and Developmental Disabilities

### **Amy Jacobs**

Commissioner, Department of Early Care and  
Learning

### **Vernon M. Keenan**

Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

### **Russell R. McMurry**

Commissioner, Department of Transportation

### **Christopher Nunn**

Commissioner, Georgia Department of  
Community Affairs

### **J. Patrick O'Neal**

Interim Commissioner, Department of Public  
Health

### **Virginia Pryor**

Interim Director, Division of Family & Children  
Services



# M E M B E R S

## LEGISLATORS

### **Senator Jack Hill**

Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

### **Senator Renee S. Unterman**

Chairman, Senate Health and Human Services  
Vice Chairman, Human Development and Public  
Health, Senate Appropriations Committee

### **Representative Terry England**

Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

### **Representative Katie Dempsey**

Vice Chairman, Health and Human Services,  
House Appropriations Committee

### **Representative Sharon Cooper**

Chairman, Health and Human Services

### **Representative Eddie Lumsden**

Chairman, House Human Relations and Aging  
Committee

### **Representative Tommy Benton**

State Representative, District 31  
Member, House Study Committee on  
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship  
Care

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### **Emory University**

Dr. Allan Levey, Chairman, Department of Neurology,  
Director of Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

### **Georgia State University**

Dr. Elisabeth Burgess, Director, Department of Gerontology

### **University of Georgia**

Dr. Mary Ann Johnson, Interim Director, College of Public Health Institute of Gerontology

# M E M B E R S

## STAKEHOLDERS

### **AARP**

Debra Tyler-Horton, State Director

### **Alliant Health Solutions, Inc.**

Dr. Adrienne D. Mims, Vice President & Chief Medical Officer

### **Alzheimer's Association Georgia Chapter**

Kathy Simpson, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy

### **Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)**

Clint Mueller, Legislative Director

### **Athens Community Council on Aging**

Eve Anthony, President and CEO

### **Atlanta Regional Commission**

Doug Hooker, Executive Director

### **Community Representative**

Ann Williams

### **Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (G4A)**

Julie Hall, Director

### **Georgia Association for Community Care Providers**

Steve Neff, Executive Director

### **Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies**

Judy Adams, Executive Director

### **Georgia Council on Aging**

Kathy Floyd, Executive Director

### **Georgia Food Bank Association**

Danah Craft, Executive Director

### **Georgia Gerontology Society**

Amanda James, Executive Director

### **Georgia Health Care Association**

Tony Marshall, President and CEO

### **Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

Melanie McNeil, State Ombudsman

### **LeadingAge Georgia**

Ginny Helms, President and CEO

### **Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia**

Peter J. Skandalakis, Executive Director

### **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving**

Dr. Leisa Easom, Executive Director

### **Thanks Mom & Dad Fund**

Maureen Kelly, President

### **United Way of Greater Atlanta**

Milton Little, President and CEO