

The Blue Note October/November 2016 Issue



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR



*Happy National Adoption Month! This is one of my favorite times of the year as it is a time to gear up for the holiday season -- and holidays mean family. I can't think of a better way to kick off the holiday season than to celebrate with the **794** children who so far this year have found their forever family!*

I am also excited about how this year of action for the Blueprint for Change

*has unfolded. From the successful roll-out of Solution Based Casework to the momentum of the branding effort and **Blueprint in 6**, I am humbled by what we have been able to accomplish together. It is amazing what can happen when vision meets intention as there is no limit to the possibilities. This has been a season of change for the Division, and with change comes growth and opportunity.*

So as we race towards the busy holiday season and the end of this year, I challenge each of you to continue to choose to be the Blueprint and not to lose the momentum that we've achieved. Choose to share your "why", choose to show up every day for families, and choose to remain engaged as we strive to become the best!

*Always Forward!
Ginger*

"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." -- Nelson Mandela

***Please don't forget to send us your positive thoughts and stories at The-Power-of-Positivity@dhs.ga.gov. As mentioned in last month's Blue Note, this email box is solely dedicated to the power of positive thinking and actions. Help us be intentional about creating a culture of positivity across the agency!*

#iamtheblueprint

The 2016 Supervisors Summit

For those who were able to attend this year's Supervisors Summit, we hope that you enjoyed your time in Atlanta and were able to walk away with additional tools, resources and information that will aid you on your supervisory journey. A big thanks to everyone who was a part of making the summit a success! Check out just a few of the moments that we captured.



Director Cagle and the Deputy Directors at the Staff Town Hall Meeting that was held during the Summit.



A few of the Practice Model Coaches at their Exhibit Table.



Ginger Pryor and Jeff Lukich with the Region 13 Resource Development Supervisor who received one of the Supervisor Awards.

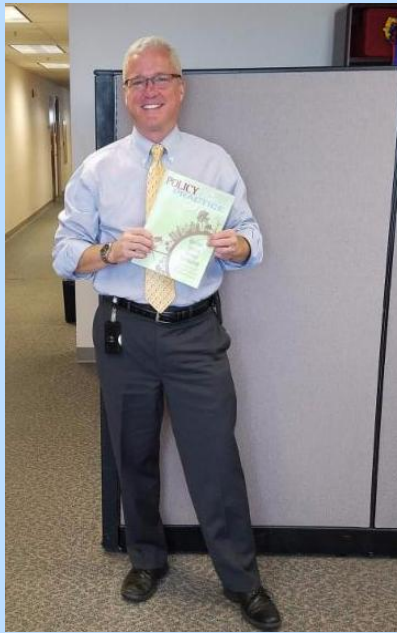


A group of Supervisors participating in one of the many workshops offered during the Summit.

Making a National Impact: Georgia's Knowledge Management Section

Congratulations to Lee Biggar, Assistant Division Director of the Knowledge Management Section, on the recent publication of an article in *Policy and Practice* that he co-authored with a colleague from the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). The focus of the article is on how human service organizations can strengthen their capacities to manage information, data and knowledge in order to more effectively guide response and future planning. Below is a link to the article. Way to go, Lee!

[Managing Knowledge for Impact](#)



THE BLUEPRINT IN ACTION

Georgia's Practice Model Newsletter -- Issue VII

Have you had chance to read the latest issue of the Practice Model Newsletter? If not, click on the link below to download Issue VII and learn more about what's been happening around the implementation of our Practice Model.

[Georgia's Practice Model Newsletter -- Issue VII](#)

SBC Milestone 4: Let's Celebrate!

There was a lot to celebrate in October for the implementation of SBC! Check out excerpts from two emails regarding a recent successful case consultation in Region 13, and the very first SBC case manager certification in Region 14.

Successful Case Consultation:

*"I just wanted to share with you guys a great experience that I had in Gwinnett County during a case consultation with Omar Simpson's team. His case manager, **Patricia Cureton**, was scheduled to present a case. She came very well prepared...During her presentation she constantly used the SBC language and informed us [about] how she interacted with the family. The family that she presented didn't even want to speak with DFCS in the beginning due to the mom having a [previous] bad experience with DFCS. Mom shared that she doesn't trust DFCS because when she was a child her family maltreated her...and DFCS...didn't do anything for her...Due to Patricia's engagement skills the family opened to her in such a way...She was even able to build a consensus with this family. Patricia is a real SBC champion..."*

-- Carina Thompson, Region 13 Practice Model Coach

The First SBC Certified Case Manager:

*"I wanted to take out this time to highlight my experience on today at the Southwest Service Center in Fulton County. I was able to witness the very first Certified Case Manager in Fulton County. **Mr. Anderson Hood** did an Outstanding Job on today presenting his case to his Supervisor, Practice Model Coach (Carnella Harvey) and his peers. As a result of Mr. Anderson being prepared and knowledgeable about his family, it also allowed him to be able to complete all of his work products for certification. His Supervisor and his peers did an excellent job as well by engaging and providing insight around the safety outcomes. Again, hats off to Supervisor Willis, Practice Model Coach Carnella Harvey, and Case Manager Anderson Hood for a job well done !!!!!!!!!!"*

-- Tripp Jones, Practice Model Unit Manager

VOICES FROM THE REGION

A Day at Albany State University

Last week our own Deputy Division Director, Ginger Pryor, had the opportunity to spend two days in Albany, Georgia. The first day was spent with the staff from Region 10 as part of the ongoing staff engagement meetings that she has been having around the state. The second day was spent at Albany State University where Ginger had the opportunity to speak with Social Work students, current and former foster youth, and faculty. She even did an interview with local news station WALB. Click on the link below to watch the interview.

MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "r20.rs6.net" claiming to be <http://www.walb.com/story/33503100/students-inspired-at-asu-lecture-on-importance-of-social-work-careers>

ON THE HORIZON

SAVE THE DATE: The State Office Roadshow

The State Office town hall staff meetings originally scheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd have been rescheduled. Please stay tuned for information on the new meeting date and agenda which will be sent by the DFCS Office of Communications.

The FY2017-2019 Strategic Plan

As you may be aware, the Division has spent the past year developing and finalizing the FY2017-2019 Strategic Plan. Many of you have been instrumental throughout this process, especially with providing feedback via a survey that was sent out to all staff and some external stakeholders several months ago. Based on the feedback provided, we were able to compile and submit a plan that has been approved by Director Cagle. Now that the plan has officially been finalized and approved, it is time to begin roll-out and implementation. The January Discourse will focus entirely on introducing the final strategic plan and unveiling the timeline for implementation. More details coming soon!

STAY CONNECTED TO US!



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