



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Happy National Social Work Month! I love this month because I love having a specific time of the year set aside to celebrate the social work craft and everything it represents. I especially love the heart of what social work represents -- [service](#).

Service is a persistent and consistent theme in the social work arena. It is the primary goal and first value listed in the National Association of Social Work's Code of Ethics. Also, in my experience working with child welfare jurisdictions across the country, you will find that most of these agencies have the word "service" somewhere in their names. You would be hard pressed to find a jurisdiction in this country that does not have service incorporated into their name. Additionally, the history of the social work profession is rooted in a legacy of service to those most vulnerable and unable to defend and/or care for themselves.

Social work is a noble profession and one which deserves to be celebrated and honored 365 days a year. So in that spirit I celebrate and honor each and every one of you and the work you do! Although it is often hard, emotionally

*draining and fraught with challenges, it is the passion for service to others which I hope compels you to continue working in this field even on the toughest days. Never lose this passion for service as it will inspire you even during the darkest days in your career. Together, we get the honor and privilege of transforming and being change agents in the lives of the families and children we **serve**. Thank you for all that you do!*

*Always Forward!
Ginger*



***Please don't forget to send us your positive thoughts and stories at The-Power-of-Positivity@dhs.ga.gov. As mentioned in previous Blue Notes, 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!*

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

A Special Message from the Division's Office of Communications

The month of March is recognized as National Social Work month. Throughout the month, we would like to celebrate you for your tireless efforts in standing up for Georgia's children and families. This month, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) recognizes social workers for "standing up for millions of people every day."



We want to focus the spotlight on the work you do, so send us your "why" with a photo/video describing why you chose social work. Is there a special story or moment that resonates with you? Email us a brief photo (with story) or video stating "Why you stand for _____" and use the hashtag #WhyIStand to see your story featured on the Division's social media pages.

Please remember, when sharing stories and/or photos, do not include any identifying information.

-No photos of clients or their homes.

-No photos of foster children or families involved in any case.

-Check photos for identifying information in the background.

-No information that would identify a SNAP, Medicaid, TANF or CC client.

-Please ensure you have the permission of the person in the photo before sending. If using a photo with a child, please ensure you have the parent or guardian's consent as evidenced by their completion of the Division's Consent Release.

We will collect submissions all month long via email at dhswebrequests@dhs.ga.gov or by text: 404-823-2068. Keep an eye out on the Division's Facebook/Twitter page in March, you may see your story featured!

GEORGIA'S JOURNEY TOWARD A STATE OF HOPE

The Blueprint for Change is more than just a reform effort, more than a movement, it is a journey towards a State of Hope. A State of Hope is a place where people share a vision of safety and success for every child who lives there. It is a place where public and private organizations - nonprofits, philanthropies, government, businesses and communities - collaborate closely to help achieve that vision. As a result, children are safer, families are stronger and communities are more supportive places for families to thrive.

We cannot do this work alone, and it will take the partnership and collaboration of every sector of this state to be successful in this effort. To that end, we have

partnered with Casey Family Programs to host our official **Listen, Learn and Launch**

event on **May 3, 2017**. We are excited to unveil our internal and external statewide engagement strategy and the plan to further engage the entire State around our journey towards becoming a State of Hope! We hope that you will partner with us for safe children, strengthened families and a stronger Georgia!

Be on the lookout for the Save-the-Date and more details that will follow soon. In the meantime...enjoy a sneak preview of the final branding elements!





THE BLUEPRINT IN ACTION

SuperVisions Video Series

This video is a continuation of the SuperVisions video series, which highlights great supervisory practices in the field. The video spotlights Nora Lindsey from Clayton County. We hope you all learn and enjoy! <https://vimeo.com/190624061>

Peach County "Grabs-A-Bag" for Albany

Peach County staff recently donated several items to the "Grab-a-Bag for Albany" disaster relief effort. This relief effort is one that this county can relate to as they recently had a previous employee who lost three family members during the tornado that devastated Adel, and their county also has seen devastation from two separate tornadoes that hit there in prior years. All items donated will be useful aids in helping the Albany community to bounce back from this natural disaster. Peach County staff expressed that as a Division team members they wanted to do their part to help. Way to go, Peach County!



Constituent Engagement at the AFPAG Conference

The Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG) recently held its annual conference at the end of February. The conference provided plenty of opportunities for Division staff and leadership to engage with one of our most important group of constituents -- Foster and Adoptive Parents. Check out just a few of the moments captured!



Director Cagle giving the keynote address during the luncheon on 2/25.



Deputy Director Pryor at the Regional Resource Table with Jeff Lukich, the District Directors and a few Regional Directors.

IN THE KNOW...

Georgia Gateway Training for Child Welfare Staff

Georgia Gateway implementation is underway. We have already trained staff for the Pilot and are preparing for Wave 1 training. An identified number of Social Services

staff will attend Georgia Gateway training in the classroom. These staff have been notified and will be registered directly by the SS Registrar.

All other Social Services staff who will have screening duties in Georgia Gateway are to complete the online training for Georgia Gateway. Any other Social Services or agency staff may also complete this training as desired. The training sequence is online and can be accessed at www.iotis.org. It includes Web Based Training Modules and Webinar Recordings.

- Web Based Trainings: Georgia Gateway online prerequisite (GA 050) course consists of 6 modules that provide a basic overview of the Georgia Gateway System and Navigation.
- Webinar Recordings: The Webinar Recordings are video recordings of the Georgia Gateway system. The trainer navigates various features and functions of the system and discusses relevant features and functions. The webinars are divided into three parts:
 - o **Part 1:** The first recording discusses the search/inquiry features and functions of the Georgia Gateway system. It also reviews basic system terminology. This recording is approximately 25 minutes long.
 - o **Part 2:** The second recording outlines how to find information within the Data Collection module in Georgia Gateway. It also discusses how to find eligibility information. This recording is approximately 35 minutes long.
 - o **Part 3:** The third recording describes how to use additional system features such as alerts, tasks and case notes. This recording is approximately 35 minutes long.

To access the training:

- 1) Log into www.gadfcs.org
- 2) Select Online Training Courses
- 3) Select the yellow Georgia Gateway Courses button
- 4) Select Georgia Gateway Prerequisite (Non-Classroom)

Also available are 'Did You Know Videos' which are optional for Social Services Staff. These videos are short in length and provide a general overview of Georgia Gateway. This includes information on the Go Live Approach, Basic Processing, and Training and Support being offered throughout implementation.

The videos are under the OFI Georgia Gateway Training section and can be accessible via the following steps:

- 1) Log into www.gadfcs.org.
- 2) Select Online Training Courses.
- 3) If you see a screen that asks you to choose between OFI and SS, choose OFI. If you don't see that screen, you can still switch over to the OFI course selection by clicking the "OFI" link located in the gray line near the bottom of the browser window.

- 4) Select the yellow Georgia Gateway Courses button
- 5) Select GA 050: Georgia Gateway Prerequisite. *'The Did You Know'* videos are in this course.

STAY CONNECTED TO US!

