



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Division of Family and Children Services • Mark A. Washington, Assistant Commissioner
Two Peachtree Street, Suite 19-490 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142 • 404-651-8409 • 404-657-5105

June 18, 2009

Dear Partners and Service Providers,

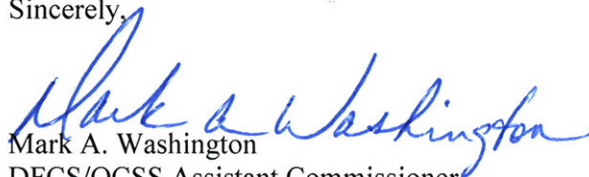
I am corresponding with you all to share information about an exciting organizational restructuring within the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). I believe that this move will represent an important step in our continued efforts to improve permanency results for children. As a valued partner you will play a critical role in the success and implementation of this strategy.

We know that in order to ensure positive permanency and life long connections for our children and youth we must share a common vision and align our efforts toward the accomplishment of those outcomes. DFCS should be a true partner with our private community service agencies and continually develop innovative ways to strengthen that relationship. It is important that we share information, resources and even strategies for success. Doing so enhances our work and results in greater numbers of children and youth achieving permanency safely and quickly.

Therefore, I have commissioned an outstanding team of internal staff and external subject matter experts to redesign the area we currently refer to as Provider Relations. Together they have crafted a dynamic work operation aimed at strengthening DFCS/provider engagement, program effectiveness and outcomes. This newly developed Office of Provider Utilization and Outcomes Management will be responsible for purchasing needed services, measuring success and providing technical assistance to our partners.

Thank you so much for all that you do to help Georgia's children and families. Updates regarding further developments with this new unit will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Washington
DFCS/OCSS Assistant Commissioner
Department of Human Resources

CC: Isabel Blanco, Deputy Director Field Operations
Katherine Herron, Deputy Director, Programs and Policy
Kenneth Joe, Integrated Family Service Director
Cliff O'Connor, Deputy Director, Administration and Finance
Lamar W. Smith, Special Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner
DFCS – All Staff