



To: All DHR Employees

From: B.J. Walker, DHR Commissioner 

Date: April 7, 2009

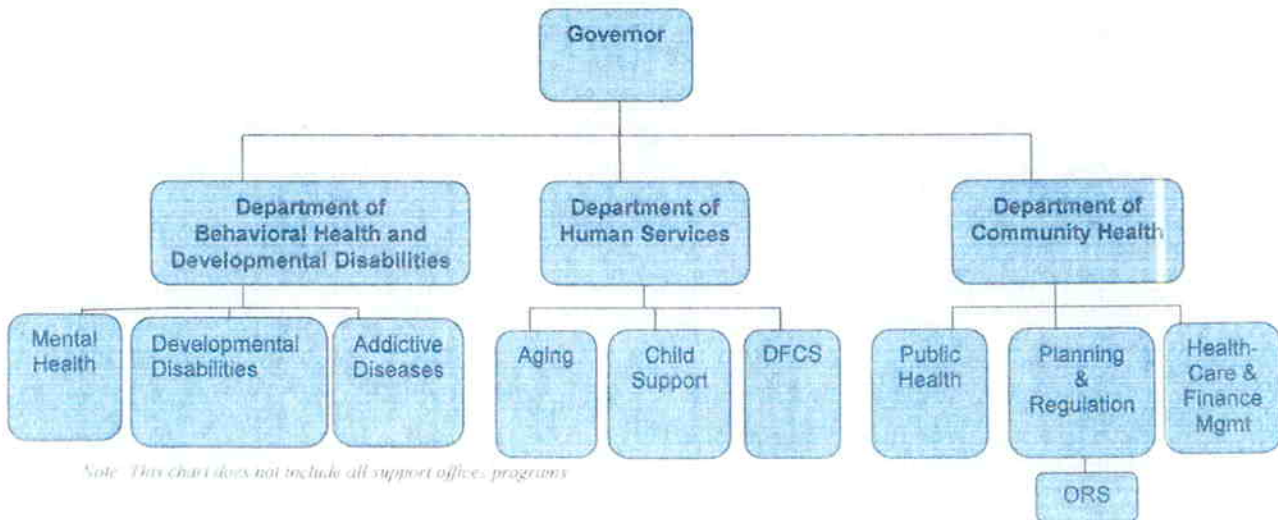
Subject: Health and Human Services Restructuring Legislation

**What happened?**

On Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that will restructure health and human services in Georgia (HB 228). This legislation will reorganize the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Department of Community Health (DCH) and will create a new Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD).

**What does this mean?**

The current health and human services programs of DHR will be spread across three separate agencies. A high-level visual of the three agencies' core services is below.



**What are the next steps?**

As this legislation is sent to Governor Perdue for signing, DHR Leadership and staff will be working through the details and preparing for the July 1, 2009 transition deadline.

Currently, the transition planning team is beginning the task of allocating resources to the new agencies. **This is a budget discussion which only focuses on the number of full-time employment (FTE) positions and not on specific staff names at this time.** However, I will

keep you informed in this process and ask that you continue to prepare for the transition of DHR.

**How can I help?**

Over the past few months, we've had an opportunity to reflect on the great accomplishments of DHR through the *Flashback* Campaign.

In the coming days, we will embrace our transformation to becoming the Department of Human Services and start our strategic planning process. This will be an inclusive process where all employees can participate and provide feedback for shaping our agency. Please be on the look out for more information about strategic planning this week.

**Moving Forward**

I know this is a challenging time and we do not have all of the answers. But with a little patience and creativity, we will fly through this time and land on our feet. Be encouraged and more details about this legislation's impact will be provided. If you have questions in the meantime, please submit them to [myquestion@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:myquestion@dhr.state.ga.us).