



B.J. Walker, Commissioner

Department of Human Resources • Suite 29.250 • Two Peachtree Street, NW • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142 • 404/651-6314

To: All DHR Employees
From: B.J. Walker, DHR Commissioner 
Date: March 17, 2009
Subject: Health and Human Services Restructuring Legislation

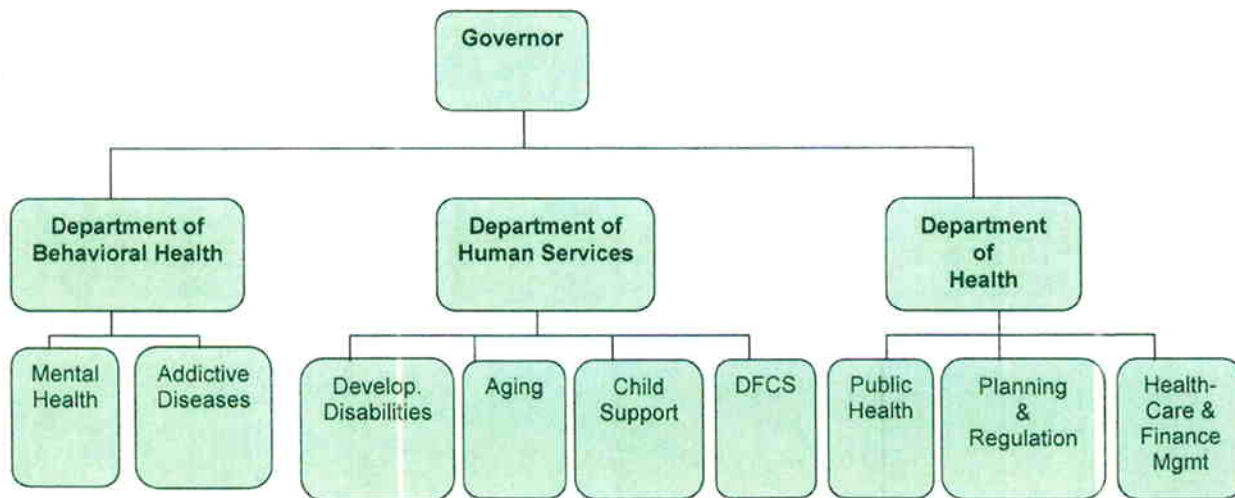
As we approach the end of Georgia's legislative process in just a few weeks, there is a lot of activity on Capitol Hill regarding the Health and Human Services Restructuring legislation.

What happened?

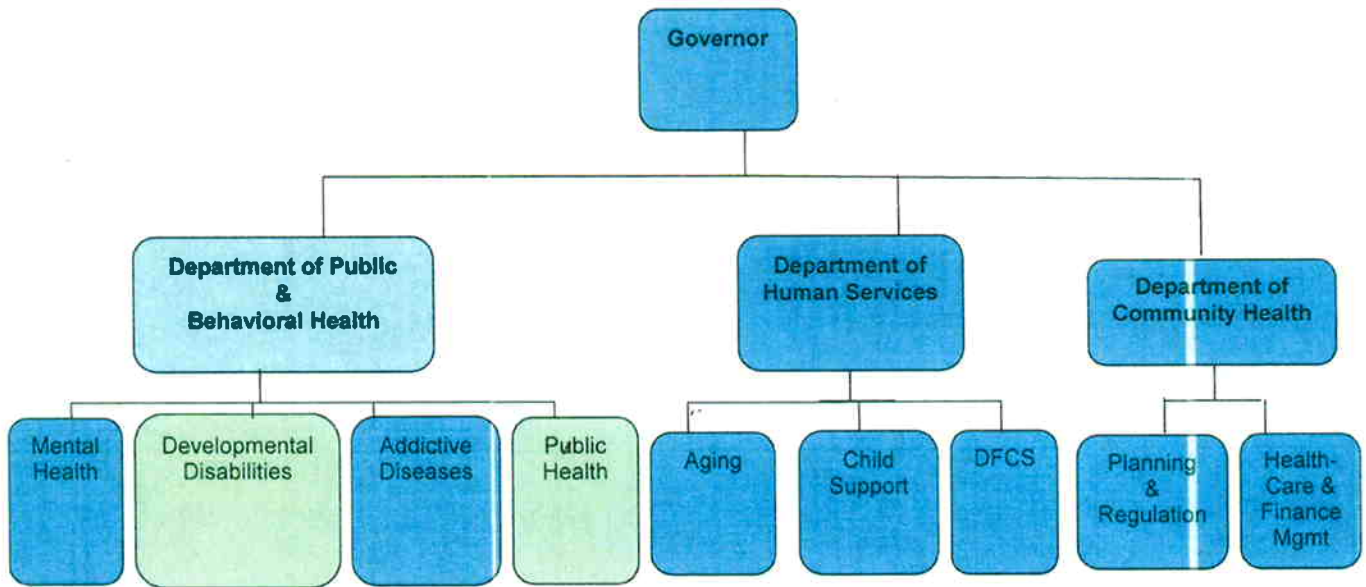
In February 2009, House Bill 228 (HB 228) was introduced to the Georgia Legislature as the primary legislation to restructure health and human services in Georgia. Since then, there have been some changes to the original HB 228.

Below are illustrations of the original HB 228, the Amended HB 228 and the Senate version – Senate Bill 222 (SB 222).

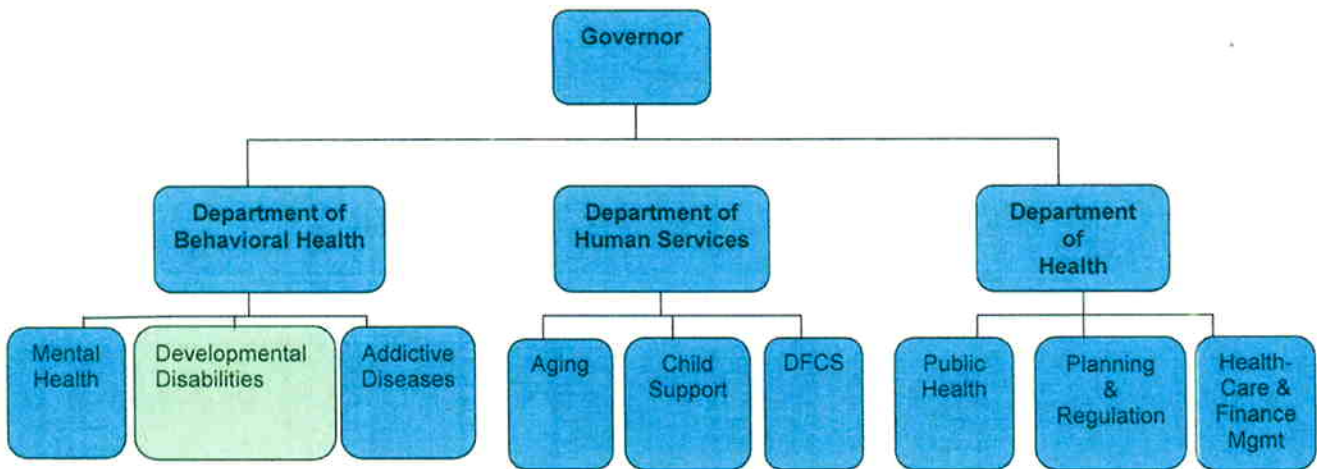
HB 228 – Reflects the original recommendation by the Governor and the Health and Human Services Taskforce to create three new agencies, (did not pass)



HB 228 – Amended to create a Dept. of Public & Behavioral Health and the Dept. of Human Services, (passed)



SB 222 – Reflects the original recommendation but moves Developmental Disabilities to the Dept. of Behavioral Health (passed)



What's next?

Legislators will now begin the process of reconciling their differing versions of the bill to produce legislation for the Governor's signature no later than April 3rd - the scheduled end of the 2009-10 legislative session.

In the meantime, please continue to prepare for the transition of DHR. I appreciate all the hard work you have put in to making this transition go as smoothly as possible. We will keep you informed on the progress of this legislation in the days ahead.