

DCH Team,

How 'Bout Them Dawgs?!? Way to go University of Georgia for bringing a national championship home to our great state!

I hope that you are enjoying a very happy new year thus far! In these short 31 days, we have already undertaken quite a few new projects, so I'm super excited to get back into the normal course of business. As we continue to progress through those various projects within the year, I will make sure to keep you updated regarding the specifics. What I can tell you right now is that high on our priority list are staffing augmentation for health care facilities (primarily hospitals) in the midst of omicron, the potential adoption of rate adjustments for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities to support children's behavioral health needs, continued progress of the new Medicaid Enterprise System Transformation to modernize our legacy system GAMMIS, and ensuring we are meeting the health care needs of the members we are charged to serve.



For those who have been with the agency for more than a year, you know that January is always a really important time for us. This month marks the start of the legislative season – a time when many notable pieces of legislation go through the process of potentially becoming bills that may, in some way, impact the work that we do. This year, however, will be slightly different for us. While DCH does not have any agency-specific legislation that we are working to get passed, our initial priority will be supporting the Governor's budget recommendations for 2022-2023. On January 20th, I was honored to present to the Georgia General Assembly Joint Budget Session a snapshot of many of the initiatives that DCH has underway, including the agency's budgetary requests in alignment with the Governor's budget recommendations. As I said then, I could not do this alone and greatly appreciate the work of individual and team contributors to this effort. Brandy Sylvan and Kaitlin Ward in the Office of Government Relations are in the early stages of what is expected to be an extremely busy next few months, and in this month's issue, Brandy gives us a brief look at what we can expect during this session.

On another note, we have welcomed a few new faces to the DCH Leadership Team over the past two months. Two of these individuals I have mentioned before, but we have added three more. I'd like to formally welcome each of them to the agency:

- **Benjamin Arbise** – Deputy Executive Director of HFRD
- **David Graves** – Director, Office of Communications
- **Brian Lipton** – Senior Policy Advisor



- **Chad Purcell** – Chief Technology Officer (OIT & OAPI)
- **Kevin Stanford** – Chief Compliance Officer (OIG & HFRD)

You can learn a little bit more about our new faces here in this edition as well. Benjamin, David, Brian, Chad and Kevin, welcome to DCH! We are thrilled to have you here as a part of the DCH team!

As we begin this new year, I'd like to also recognize team members who are celebrating state employment milestones in the month of January:

- **Five-Year Anniversary**
 - Jacenta Carmichael
 - Keona A. Carmichael
 - JoAnn C. Echols
 - Tara C. Edwards
 - Clarissa R. Felix
 - Indran B. Indrakrishnan
 - Kenisha D. Johnson
 - Lillian Peoples
 - Barbara Rivers
 - Emily Salinas
- **10-Year Anniversary**
 - Elaine T. Johnson Adams
 - Jeanie Ware

A lot of great things are on the horizon for this agency, and I am eager to start the year strong. As representatives of what the “Power of the DCH Team” can do when we all work together, I am confident that 2022 will be our best year yet! With all hands on deck, we can continue to make this work. We really couldn't do what we do as an agency without you – our dedicated team.

If you have any questions for me, please feel free to reach out. I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for all you do for the communities we serve.

Caylee

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