



DCH TEAM,

As we move into the final stretch of the fiscal year, I want to take a moment to share several recent highlights and important updates from across the Department.

First, thank you all for your flexibility in accommodating a later board meeting date this month, which allowed us to align with the Governor's 40-day bill review and signing period. During the board meeting, several items were introduced for initial adoption – highlighting the Department's commitment to quickly implement signed legislation that directly impacts our agency. As always, I want to thank our finance and policy teams for the critical behind-the-scenes work this past session.

We have some other moments worth celebrating. A big shoutout to our incredible HR team for hosting a memorable Public Employee Recognition Week. From the awards ceremony to bingo and putt putt, there was something fun happening around every corner, which gave us all a chance to pause and celebrate the amazing people who make up the DCH team.

Additionally, I'd like to send a special thank you to Louis Amis and the SHBP team for organizing another successful Mental Health Summit. This was our second summit, and it continues to grow – from practitioners, SHBP members, vendors, and community stakeholders. Mental health remains a key priority for us, and we will continue to make it a priority.

On a more personal note, I'd like to send a few congratulations to several team members:



- Our Medicaid Director, Stuart Portman, and his wife, Rachel, recently welcomed a new baby boy. Both mom and baby are doing well. Stuart is taking some well-deserved paternity leave, and the MAP team has made thoughtful accommodations to ensure a smooth continuation of operations.
- Deputy Commissioner Grant Thomas is tying the knot with his fiancée, Miranda, at the end of the month. We wish them both a joyful celebration.
- There are many in our DCH community that are celebrating graduations. From preschool to graduate school, we know this is a special season for many of you, and we share in your pride.

Before I close, I'd like to remind everyone that we are still in the early stages of the Georgia Families® and Georgia Families 360° implementation. If you haven't already, please take a moment to review the [video message](#) on the state's readiness for this important initiative.

As always, thank you for everything you do, and please continue to take care of yourselves and one another.

