

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## Budget Week



*by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA*  
**January 22, 2018**

### Key Events This Week

*Monday Jan 22nd Budget Subcommittee Hearings  
Session in Monday-Thursday*

*Jan 22nd at 2pm House Human Resources*

*Budget Subcommittee. Director Sean Casey to present. You can see  
broadcast [here](#).*

### State of the State/Budget Address

Governor Nathan Deal presented his final State of the State/Budget Address on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 11am to a joint session. He reflected on his accomplishments over the past seven years and occasionally choked up when he referred to his wife and children's initiatives. He only mentioned two funding initiatives impacting health and social services; one being more money for accountability courts and \$22.6 million for children's mental health based on recommendations from his Children's Mental Health Commission.

### Budget Process

The Governor provided an overview of his recommendations and priorities for both the Amended 2018 and Full 2019 Budgets at the opening of the Appropriations Hearings on January 16th. The Appropriations Committee had planned to meet for two days of budget

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Special  
Announcements



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**State Use  
Council  
Meeting  
Thursday,  
January 25th  
2018**

10:00 AM

Location: Sloppy  
Floyd Building,  
West Tower,  
Conference Room  
1816-B,

hearings during the second week of the session but only got in one day when snow closed all state offices Wednesday and Thursday. You can view the Governor's Address and Joint Appropriations hearings [here](#) and click on the date for the event. The Governor's Address was on Jan 11th/Day 4 and the Budget Hearing was on Jan 16th. All agencies, except Education and Medicaid, were required to request only flat funding for the FY 2019 fiscal year.

### **Budget Overview**

Since the Joint Appropriations Hearings were cut short we have not heard from the Department of Human Services or attached agencies such as GVRA. However, upon analysis there is no new money for GVRA and no recommendations for increased funding in most agencies except for special projects, new initiatives and to keep up with increases in enrollment for K-12 Education and Medicaid. There are no raises recommended for any state employees as there has been for the past few years. Teachers did not even get a raise from the Governor. This week we will hear from state agencies more in-depth on both the Amended and Full Budgets.

### **Legislative Issues**

Big election years always make for interesting legislative initiatives. Study Committees that worked over the fall have just released their reports and many of those recommendations will take the form of bills in the coming days. Healthcare access and affordability was a major issue for the Senate Health Care Reform Task Force. On the first day of the session the task force met to review their recommendations and announce they will be moving legislation to create two entities to dive deep into healthcare; The Health Coordination and Innovation Council to lead a strategic plan and evaluate duplicative government services and The Health System Innovation Center will collect data and provide technical expertise from academia and other industry experts.

Reports from all the House Study Committees can be viewed online under the [House Study Committee page](#) and clicking on each Committee. Senate Study Committee reports are listed under [Current Study Committees](#).

### **Legislation**

At the moment there are no bills of interest introduced or moving. Bills have started to be assigned to committees that will give committee chairs the opportunity to schedule committee meetings soon.

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Call for Information

200 Piedmont Ave.  
Atlanta, GA

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## **GATES Board of Directors Meeting**

**Friday,  
February 2nd,  
2018**

10:00 AM

Location:  
Easterseals of  
Middle GA - Dublin

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*Charles Hall,  
[chall@asqinfo.net](mailto:chall@asqinfo.net)*

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## **GATES**

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