

DJJ Board Member Neighbors Named New Director of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Press Release

ATLANTA, Georgia in May 2, 2013: [The Governor's Office for Children and Families](#) and the [Center for Healthy Development \(CHD\)](#) at Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health today announced that Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Board Member Julia Neighbors will serve as the new Director of [Prevent Child Abuse Georgia](#), which is housed at CHD.

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PCA Georgia) re-opened one year ago at Georgia State University, one of only two universities to house a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

Julia's arrival comes at an exciting time for PCA Georgia, said Dr. John R. Lutzker, Director of the Center for Healthy Development at GSU's Institute of Public Health. Over the past year, we have reinstated all the programs required of a state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America to ensure that children and families throughout Georgia can receive the critical services and technical support necessary to curb child maltreatment.

Services provided by PCA Georgia include conducting public awareness campaigns, leading advocacy at the state and federal levels, and serving as an information resource for materials and training. With support from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, this year PCA Georgia will re-establish the 1-800-CHILDREN helpline, which provides Georgians concerned about the welfare of a child with access to valuable information.

Julia Neighbors most recently served as the project manager for JUSTGeorgia, a statewide juvenile justice coalition involved in the re-write of Georgia's Juvenile Code and the promotion of healthier, safer communities and better outcomes for our children and youth. As a former senior attorney with the Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney, Neighbors brings a wealth of child advocate experience to PCA Georgia.

"I plan to continue building on the success PCA Georgia has experienced over the past year," said Neighbors. "Ensuring the healthy development of children has been a passion of mine throughout my career and leading PCA Georgia is an exciting next chapter."

Last week, Neighbors was appointed to the Board of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice by Governor Deal to represent Congressional District 5. The Board is made up of 15 members representing each Congressional District in the state to help improve Georgia's juvenile justice system.

Neighbors previously held the position of Executive Director of Fulton County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. She currently serves on the board of directors for Georgia CASA, the Council of Intown Neighborhood Schools and the Historic District Development Corp.

Neighbors holds a Law Degree from Emory University and a Bachelors Degree in English from the University of Michigan. She and her husband, Ken, live in Atlanta with their two sons, Kenneth and Kaden.

ABOUT THE GOVERNORS OFFICE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) empowers Georgia communities to achieve improved and sustainable outcomes by working in a systems-of-care framework to ensure that all children and families are educated, healthy, safe, and growing.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE GEORGIA

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, a provisional chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, is housed in the Center for Healthy Development at Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health. It is supported in part by the Governor's Office for Children and Families through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590). Recognizing that child development is a building block for community and economic development, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia works to ensure the healthy development of children across the state.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide. The organization promotes that vision through a network of chapters in 50 states and 539 Healthy Families America home visitation sites in 41 states, the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada. It is the only organization in the United States whose sole mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children. To learn more about what Prevent Child Abuse America is doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and how you can help visit [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) and [Healthy Families America](#) online.

Related Links

[Center for Healthy Development](#)

[Governor's Office of Children and Families](#)

[Prevent Child Abuse Georgia](#)

[Prevent Child Abuse America](#)

[Healthy Families America](#)

[Julia Neighbors, J.D.](#)

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ATLANTA, Georgia – May 2, 2013. The Governor's Office for Children and Families and the Center for Healthy Development (CHD) at Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health today announced that Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health's Julia Neighbors will serve as the new Director of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, which is housed at CHD. Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides a variety of services and programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

"Julia's career spans an impressive 15 years in the field of child abuse prevention, most notably as the Director of the Center for Healthy Development at GSU's Institute of Public Health. Over the past year, we have witnessed the progress reported in the report of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia to ensure that children and families throughout Georgia can receive the critical services and technical support necessary to reach their full potential."

Services provided by PCA Georgia include conducting public awareness campaigns, leading activities at the state and federal levels, and serving as an information resource for reporters and law enforcement. With support from the Arthur W. Maas Family Foundation, this year PCA Georgia will conduct the 3rd Annual Child Abuse Reporting Competition, which provides Georgia consumers about the realities of child abuse and neglect.

Julia Neighbors most recently served as the project manager for CHD Georgia, a statewide juvenile justice coalition housed in the Institute of Public Health's Center for Healthy Development. After completing her master's thesis on child abuse and neglect, she worked for the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, where she was instrumental in the development of the CHD statewide, Neighbors brings a wealth of child abuse prevention experience to PCA Georgia.

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