



LAGRANGE
GEORGIA

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2019

LaGrange Police Chief to Serve on Inaugural Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

LaGrange, Ga. September 27, 2019 – LaGrange Police Chief Lou Dekmar is one of twenty-four members appointed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to serve on the inaugural Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The Georgia Behavioral Health Reform & Innovation Commissioners were sworn into office Wednesday, September 26th

The Governor signed into law House Bill 514 that created the Commission. According to the legislation the commission was created to address the following:

- To conduct a comprehensive review of the behavioral health system in Georgia including behavioral health services and facilities in the state
- To identify behavioral health issues in children, adolescents, and adults
- To identify the role the educational system has in the identification and treatment of behavioral health issues
- To identify the impact behavioral health issues have on the court system and correctional system
- To identify the legal and systemic barriers to treatment of mental illnesses, workforce shortages that impact the delivery of care, whether there is sufficient access to behavioral health services and supports and the role of payers in such access
- To identify the impact on how untreated behavioral illness can impact children into adulthood
- To identify the need for aftercare for persons exiting the criminal justice system
- To identify the impact of behavioral illness on the state's homeless population



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Chief Dekmar with Georgia Governor Brian Kemp

Chief Dekmar and the commission were sworn in Wednesday at the Georgia State Capitol.

“I am honored to have been invited to serve on this commission,” said Chief Dekmar. “The LaGrange Police Department has been involved in working on this issue for more than fifteen years. Through policy, training and innovations dealing with those affected by mental illness LPD continues to work in conjunction with our partners in the faith community and non-profits.”

Media Contact: Katie Mercer Van Schoor, City of LaGrange
Marketing/Communications Manager, kvanschoor@lagrangega.org or
(706) 883-2055

To keep up with the latest news involving the City of LaGrange, go to www.lagrangega.org or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/lagrangegov, Twitter at [@lagrangegov](https://twitter.com/lagrangegov), & Instagram at instagram.com/cityoflagrangega

###