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.

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.”

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