

DECAL - Bright from the Start**Meeting Minutes**

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**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
2/12/2009 9:00:00 AM**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place - 6th Floor Boardroom - Atlanta,
GA

Holly A. Robinson, Commissioner

Attendees - voting members

Ted Mallory	Board Vice Chair, District 3
Carlene Talton	Board Secretary, District 5
Darrell Wilder	Board Member, District 1
Carolyn Ormsby	Board Member, District 4
Melissa Turner	Board Member, District 7
Gabrielle Braswell	Board Member, District 6
Dixie Kinard	Board Member, District 9
Victor Morgan	Board Member, District 11
Maggie Martinez	Board Member, District 13

Attendees - other

Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Megan Larkins	Office of Planning & Budget
Leslie Lowe	Chief Financial Officer
Mary Mazarky	Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Stacey Moore	Public Relations Manager
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer
Holly Robinson	Commissioner
Karen Robinson	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Justine Strickland	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care

Meeting Minutes

The following guest were also in attendance. Beverly Stewart, Vice President of Georgia Child Care Association; Devin Wright, President of Georgia Child Care Association; and Kathleen McKinney, Bright from the Start's Student Intern

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ted Mallory called the meeting to order and acknowledged visitors.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Carlene Talton moved to approve the agenda for the day and the minutes from the November 13, 2008, meeting of the board. Carolyn Ormsby seconded. Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Carlene Talton

Motion seconded by: Carolyn Ormsby

Voting

Unanimously Approved

- a. *Approve agenda for 2/12/09 meeting
- b. *Approve minutes from 11/13/08 meeting

3. Inspiration

Vice Chair Ted Mallory announced Elizabeth Ragsdale was invited to serve on the State Board of Education and will no longer serve on the Board of Early Care and Learning. Katie Ward, Janice Gallimore, and Luann Purcell were unable to attend this meeting. He welcomed new board member Darrell Wilder of Valdosta, representing the 1st Congressional District. Mr. Mallory provided the young but productive history of the department and the board. Today marks the board's tenth meeting. He believes the department has gained a well-deserved reputation. He states the board is inspired by its dedicated work for children.

4. Bright from the Start Presentations

- a. Pre-K Update

Mary Mazarky presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She discussed the Commissioner's report to the Pre-K Study Committee in the state legislature and introduced the committee's recommendations. The study committee recognized last year's special allotment of refurbishment funds as a boost to providers and recommended these funds become a regular part of the funding formula. They also commended the Commissioner on data changes for waiting lists. Ms. Mazarky reported 3,000 new Pre-K slots are included in the Governor's budget and shared the top 20 targeted counties in the state. Dr. Ormsby asked how counties are targeted. Ms. Mazarky explained the targeted counties are now identified based on graduation rates and waiting list numbers, with additional weight given to the waiting list. Funding for new classes will not be limited to targeted counties but will start there. The Commissioner added the Pre-K program is at a 99% fill rate for four rosters in a row. This fill rate supports the need to seek more slots in order to meet the statewide demand. Ms. Mazarky stated the division will spend the next two months working on building capacity in quality spaces in order to expand. A funding sheet will be developed by the time the budget is signed. Ms. Braswell asked whether Bright from the Start targets within counties to reach the right areas. Ms. Mazarky responded the division looks at waiting lists at the county zip code level. She added Pre-K will seek to fill existing programs before funding new ones. Ms. Mazarky reported the 16-page application for the Professional Development Registry has been reduced to three. The entire department will also be enrolled in the registry. The registry system will be connected to all other department systems. Ms. Turner asked if information in the registry is accessible to potential employers. Ms. Mazarky stated employers cannot access the information directly but applicants can print out their verified materials for them. Pre-K will participate in Volunteer USA's Love. Read. Learn! project. The project will distribute to parents a kit on helping the child become a good reader at home. Volunteer USA was impressed Pre-K's existing statewide delivery network and allowed the department to design the materials to align with Pre-K instruction. Volunteer USA then assembled the kits. At no cost the department, ten thousand families will receive the parent kits this spring and 50,000 next year. The Commissioner shared the department is very excited

about being selected for this initiative. Dr. Ormsby remarked oftentimes parents do not follow up with take-home materials, and she believes the training component is just what is needed to help parents. Work Sampling Online is piloted from this January through January 2010. The department has a full year of data to evaluate. Implementing Work Sampling Online will enable statewide data analysis and will make children's Pre-K assessments available to their kindergarten programs through the Georgia Testing Identifier (GTID). Pre-K is also expanding inclusion.

b. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler updated the board on the department's development of technology resources. (See slides.) GTIDs have been assigned to this year's Pre-K students. The Commissioner added a long-term effect of this assignment is the ability to gather longitudinal data on Pre-K children. Mr. Detweiler reported the department has already saved over \$25,000 from the implementation of GoToMeeting. The department's new website design is revamped based on the ten most common questions each division received. The department is identifying website content that will draw people back to the site regularly. He presented a map of waiting list data and stated the department's new mapping software tool will allow the department to zoom to street level, allowing further research opportunities. Mr. Mallory commented the department's increase in good data is appreciated in the capitol.

c. Blended Program

Justine Strickland updated the board on the move to blended programs in the Child Care Services Division. (See slides.) She explained center and group care had a separate monitoring strategy from family care. January 1, 2009, marked the changeover date to a much more efficient blended caseload model. The division is monitoring quality assurance to ensure consistency in consultant monitoring. Mr. Mallory commended the move to standardization. Ms. Strickland reported the Strengthening Families pilot, supported by the Doris Duke Foundation, is in its first year. The department also received a grant to look at supporting inclusion in child care programs across the state. Another initiative is looking at how to support blending Head Start and Pre-K to serve more children. The Head Start office is in full agreement, wanting every Head Start program to be blended with Georgia's Pre-K. Mr. Morgan noted the practicality of having Head Start and Pre-K blended and working together. This partnership will benefit children.

d. Rule Update

Ashley Peacock presented a review of effective rule amendments and of previously approved amendments to be in effect in spring. (See slides.) Mr. Mallory inquired of what appeal process is available to providers for the e-mail address requirement. Mr. Peacock replied providers may receive a waiver of up to six months and will be given assistance on how to set up a free e-mail account and access it for free at public libraries. He noted the department received the most comments from family day care providers on the use of an e-mail address. Yet, these comments represent a small percentage, 15 comments out of 6,000 providers. Mr. Mallory appreciated the department taking providers' comments seriously and reiterated the rule process may be the most important work the board does. Mr. Peacock introduced proposed center, group, and family rule amendments for the board's consideration. (See slides.) Mr. Mallory commented board members did receive the proposed rule

amendments, but they would appreciate more advance time for review. Mr. Peacock stated one purpose of the new amendments is to make the rules more consistent across center, group, and family care. Justine commented a national report on the quality of center rules ranked Georgia in the forties among other states. For the next report, Georgia will be in the top ten because of current rule changes enacted. The Commissioner stressed the focus of the department is on quality. Dr. Ormsby asked how liable is the department for an abuse committed by a provider. Mr. Peacock and Ms. Strickland stated centers are solely liable; they are required to post a notice if they do not carry liability insurance. The department provides information about complaints on providers and takes serious actions against providers that endanger children. Mr. Morgan clarified, although 15 rule revisions are proposed, only seven items are affected because the revisions are repeated across the different programs. Mr. Peacock stated he will present future amendments in a more user-friendly format. Ms. Turner asked about the seatbelt requirement and warned about possible misinterpretation since, by federal law, buses over 10,000 pounds do not require restraints. Ashley explained the rule is stated in a general manner in case the federal law changes. The department can make sure consultants are aware of the difference for buses in a higher weight class.

e. (Break)

f. Quality Initiatives & Nutrition Services Updates

Karen Robinson presented updates on Nutrition Services and Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) She reported numbers of meals served and discussed the nutrition education program funded by a USDA grant intended to further best practices. Nutrition Services has supplemented the nutrition education kits with DVDs and CDs and has enough for every provider in the state. The division is working to increase summer food services. Nineteen targeted counties without access to enough summer food meals have been identified. The Commissioner commented how many children count on their school meal during the school year for adequate nutrition, and the summer food program does the important work of filling the gap when school is out. For Child Care Resource and Referral, a statewide toll-free number and web-based system for accessing community resources will be set up. Parents will know how to contact their correct region. The resource and referral system is moving from 14 to six regions July 1, 2009. This change will make the system more efficient and effective, reducing administrative costs while having home-based staff accessible in all areas of the state. The new regions have been aligned with the number of providers and the number of compliant licensed centers in each area. The department is redefining roles between the resource and referral agencies and child care consultants. Scholarships and incentives came to the department as a package deal with the intent to raise education levels and retention rates. The department is transitioning to a limit of two incentive payments per participant to make more money available for scholarships and bring in new participants. Even Start provides parent education, literacy education, GED assistance, and other services. Goals are developed based on individual participants. The program also works to ensure children's school attendance does not drop since it is linked to drop-out rates. Even Start is federally funded, and funding has decreased. The department is conducting community planning to ensure continuation of services or to identify alternate services when funds decrease. The Commissioner pointed out restructuring within the department is coordinated across services and is data driven.

g. Budget Update

Ted Mallory commented these are extraordinary times for the economy and congratulated the Commissioner on pushing through with her leadership over the course of the budget crisis. Commissioner Robinson noted how cuts affect the whole department and reported she has been called repeatedly to the legislative session. She commended Leslie Lowe for being well-prepared for the meetings. Her orders to the department are, "We are keeping our heads down and we are working hard." Megan Larkins explained the federal stimulus is a factor in budget considerations. Leslie Lowe, Chief Financial Officer, reported efforts to save money by increasing efficiency and reducing travel needs. She presented where the state is in terms of the budget recommended by the Governor for the current fiscal year amended budget (House Bill 118) and for the fiscal year 2010 budget (House Bill 119). (See slides.) The 16% overall budget reduction consists of the 10% offered by the department plus the 6% across the board cut for all agencies. The only increase is in lottery funds; the expansion in children served in Pre-K means the department will have to increase efficiencies in order to administer the program at current staffing levels. Mr. Mallory asked if there had been negative feedback received on the increase in lottery funds. Ms. Lowe responded she did not believe it has been an issue. The Commissioner added the additional 3,000 slots were prioritized because of market demand as a result. The department did not ask for than 3,000 slots. Three thousand is a fair number the department could responsibly fill. This increase has not received pushback in the House or the Senate. The only question raised was in a House appropriations meeting about cuts the department has taken in lottery funds.

h. Questions & Comments

Mr. Mallory remarked board members are appointed by the Governor and therefore, if they come into contact with elected representatives, it would be appropriate to mention what a great job the department is doing to operate efficiently and to continue to offer quality services during the budget crisis. He presented committee assignments and suspended the general meeting for committee meetings.

5. Committee Meetings/Lunch

Committees met during the lunch break. Upon reconvening, they reported their work.

6. Committee Reports

a. Communications

Gabrielle Braswell reported for the Communications Committee. The request for department representatives to notify board members of their travel and speaking plans is tabled due to travel reductions. The board's outreach regarding today's release of the Pre-K application is appreciated; a press release will be made available. For the Month of the Young Child in April, each board member is requested to read a book at an early care or Pre-K location on Georgia Reads Aloud Day. A reading list will be provided. Donating the book one reads is a nice gesture. The board would like to see new early learning statistic to be released in March, as well as public presentations from the department. Board members would like more background information in addition to the provided talking points. Finally, the celebration of the millionth child in Pre-K next year should be kept in mind. Ms. Mazarky added the

department wants to make this celebration a special event. A public announcement will come in the early fall. Ms. Kinard shared how well the news of the 3,000 Pre-K slots was received in board members' communities. She suggested the board write a letter to the Georgia Lottery Corporation in appreciation of their advertising on behalf of Pre-K.

b. Budget & Finance

Carlene Talton reported for the Finance Committee. The official letter for a clean audit has been received; this news was applauded by the board. Ms. Lowe stated the committee examined each budget group with and without budget cuts to observe how the department will be able to make budget requirements. Current budget cuts are possible because the department proactively implemented cuts ahead of time.

c. Programs

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed the purpose of rules and the distinction between rules and manuals. One distinction is to avoid continuous changes to the general rules. Manuals are used instead to provide specificity and are updated regularly. Ms. Strickland reported on karate schools are seeking to operate without obtaining a license exemption. The department will put a fact sheet together on how these entities operate outside the rules and how the rules can be more defined. Mr. Morgan added the intent of this action is to protect the safety of children; the department should prevent public questioning why these entities operate legally without oversight.

i. *Voting on Rules

Mr. Morgan motioned on behalf of the committee for the day's proposed rule amendments be adopted as presented. The new rule amendments were unanimously approved by the board.

Motion made by: Victor Morgan

Voting
Unanimously Approved

d. Ethics

Although the Ethics Committee did not meet, Mr. Mallory asked board members to take their time and be thorough with the financial disclosure forms from the Secretary of State.

7. Board Member Updates

The Vice Chair invited board members to speak to the group. Ms. Talton noted new centers of distinctions and homes in her district. Ms. Turner asked about adding NAEYC accredited sites to the department's published lists of Centers of Distinction, etc. Commissioner Robinson responded the department will have to check how feasible it is, because NAEYC does not send this information to the department. Dr. Ormsby asked about the use of the department's logo cards sent by board members to congratulate providers. Other possibilities suggested by the board include the department printing the cards and paying for them with donated funds from the board. Bright from the Start will explore options. Ms. Kinard asked for information on

where to obtain a CDA. Karen Robinson will provide information on the technical college system. Justine Strickland clarified coursework must be sent to Washington, D.C. to receive the CDA, since the coursework alone is not sufficient. Ms. Turner agreed it is difficult to find a CDA program and suggested each resource and referral department have someone certified to teach the CDA. Ms. Mazarky reported the CDA process has taken some time but is being addressed in the technical school and university systems. An advantage to studying for the CDA through these avenues is qualification for the HOPE grant, as well as the possibility of teachers continuing their coursework in order to develop more lead teachers. Ms. Turner stated she has an online source for CDA coursework not requiring a competence test for entrance. Ms. Mazarky reported any competence test used in the admissions process should be for academic placement, not for entrance to the program. However, Ms. Turner shared she has had several staff who were not admitted because of the competence test.

8. Commissioner's Report

a. Mission & Vision Statements

Commissioner Robinson noted the word "quality" appears in both the mission and vision of the department. She also noted how parent and family outreach is included in the statements and informs all of the department's work. These statements are the starting point for everything in the department. Those the department contracts with are also required to adhere to them.

b. Commissioner's Activities

The Commissioner served on the Alliance of Education Department Heads taskforce on recruitment and training of math and science teachers. She stated the shortage of these teachers is a concern across the nation. The certification process and low salaries often prevent second career people or early retirees in engineering and science fields from going into teaching. High schools are not able to hire qualified adjunct teachers the way colleges can. The taskforce's recommendations were reviewed. (See recommendations document.) Taskforce members decided by unanimous vote to bring these recommendations to their boards to pass as a resolution. Therefore, the Commissioner requested the board approve a resolution in support of the recommendations. Dr. Ormsby motioned to consider the resolution, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Dr. Ormsby commented the recommendations present a cost-effective way for schools to bring in quality teachers. Mr. Morgan stated he has heard some concern from teachers regarding differentiated pay. The Commissioner responded these concerns are mitigated by how much of a teacher shortage there is in the state. The resolution was called to vote and unanimously approved.

c. Reward and Recognition Awards

The Commissioner presented recipients of the department's rewards and recognition awards. (See slides.) Mr. Mallory recommended the board send a congratulatory letter to each recipient. Ms. Lackey will coordinate this effort.

d. Pre-K Study Committee Report

The Commissioner previewed a copy of the legislative study committee's final report and identified the members of the committee. She commented on the members' expertise, enthusiasm, and support. (See report.)

e. Center for the Developing Child, Harvard University

The Commissioner reported on her activities as a member of the Center on the Developing Child's advisory committee. She found it to be an exciting opportunity. Meetings include presentations on the latest research, such as Dr. Shonkoff presenting his work on early brain development. At their most recent meeting, Pat Leavitt of Vanderbilt shared findings on the variety of drugs being prescribed to young children, even as their brain development is still underway. This practice raises concerns of the impact these powerful drugs have on children when there is no long-range studies proving their safety for use with children. Mr. Mallory asked if any of these presenters would come to Georgia. The department will share with the board information on this study.

f. Early Education Commission

The commission is still in the research stage. This group intentionally includes community members without a background in early education. The work is focused on the greater metro area because it is partly funded by the United Way of Metro Atlanta. The Blank Foundation and Whitehead Foundation are also represented.

g. Legislative Update-Activities

So far, relevant legislative activity is mostly budget related with the exception of House Bill 70 requiring FBI fingerprinting for all employees of all early care settings. As previously reported, the department negotiated the fingerprinting requirements down. The bill is still in process and does have a fiscal note attached for funding. Most bills with fiscal notes attached are not moving forward at this time.

9. Adjournment

Vice Chair Ted Mallory expressed his appreciation for the focus of the meeting. Dates for remaining 2009 meetings are May 14, August 13, and November 12. He thanked the presenters and thanked Ms. Lackey for keeping the board informed and responding to board requests. Darrell Wilder will receive a board orientation immediately following the meeting. Victor Morgan motioned to adjourn, Maggie Martinez seconded, and the board unanimously agreed. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Motion made by: Victor Morgan

Motion seconded by: Maggie Martinez

Voting

Unanimously Approved

Board Chair

Board Secretary

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**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
5/14/2009 9:00:00 AM**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place - 6th Floor Boardroom - Atlanta,
GA

Holly A. Robinson, Commissioner

Attendees - voting members

Ted Mallory	Board Vice Chair, District 3
Carlene Talton	Board Secretary, District 5
Darrell Wilder	Board Member, District 1
Carolyn Ormsby	Board Member, District 4
Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Melissa Turner	Board Member, District 7
Gabrielle Braswell	Board Member, District 6
Victor Morgan	Board Member, District 11
Maggie Martinez	Board Member, District 13

Attendees - other

Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Megan Larkins	Office of Planning & Budget
Leslie Lowe	Chief Financial Officer
Mary Mazarky	Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer
Holly Robinson	Commissioner
Karen Robinson	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Justine Strickland	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ted Mallory called the meeting to order. He passed on the regards of the Chair and introduced new board member Susan Harper of Albany, Ga. Ms. Harper shared her experience as a school teacher and interest in early care and education. Guests were also invited to introduce themselves. The guests include: Dave Lakly from the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office; Frank Bennett, Public Guest, (Board Member, Georgia Child Care Association); and Beverly Stewart, Public Guest (Vice President, Georgia Child Care Association)

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Ms. Talton moved to approve the agenda for the day and the minutes of the February 12, 2009, meeting of the board. Mr. Morgan seconded. Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Carlene Talton

Motion seconded by: Victor Morgan

Voting

Unanimously Approved

- a. *Approve agenda for 5/14/09 meeting
- b. *Approve minutes from 2/12/09 meeting

3. Inspiration

Commissioner Robinson related Janice Gallimore's excellent recovery and expects she will return at the next board meeting. Dr. Ormsby reported Ms. Gallimore recently received an award for outstanding service in education. Sophal Lackey will provide board members with Ms. Gallimore's correspondence address. Ms. Kinard and Ms. Ward were also unable to attend. For the inspiration, Vice Chair Mallory shared how innovations in technology and in eliminating human error have greatly increased the safety of aviation. Crew resource management, which includes the control of communications and teamwork, has spread from aviation to other fields. Since board members come from diverse backgrounds and different areas of expertise, communication and especially asking questions of each other is encouraged. An inspirational video on working with others was shared.

4. Bright from the Start Presentations

- a. Pre-K Update

Mary Mazarky presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She reported the Governor signed the budget on the previous evening, approving 3,000 new Pre-K slots. As a result, Pre-K funding of applications will begin immediately. Building capacity is a key piece to the funding process; the success of the agency's capacity building efforts can be seen in the 16,000 potential slots represented by new and expansion applications. Funding for the new and expansion classes will be awarded across the state. Programs in targeted counties will be funded first, and most of Pre-K funding goes to continuation sites. Resource Coordinators are implementing the Love. Read. Learn! Family Literacy Initiative, a program sponsored by Dollar General. This year Pre-K developed models and a definition for full inclusion and is now able to work on expanding inclusion classrooms, which has grown from 10 to 64 classrooms. A center will be identified early in the school year for enrolling Pre-K's millionth child, but the millionth child will not be publicly singled out. A large media push for the millionth child campaign is expected, and the agency hopes to receive national recognition as well. The Governor's Pre-K book for the year is How Much Is a Million? Businesses in the state will be involved in promotions related to the number of one million (e.g., a million corn flakes). The agency has invited the public to use the agency's website to log the numbers of books read to children, with a goal of one million books read. Board members' involvement is encouraged. Two Chinese language and culture grants have been awarded by the Chinese government to Georgia's educational programs. Kennesaw State University received funding to initiate a Chinese language and culture program targeting four year olds in partnership with Georgia's Pre-K. Hall County's World Language Academy, an elementary school, in which students learn English, Spanish, and Chinese, is another confirmed participant. Ms. Harper asked about the relation between school boards and DECAL for inclusion classes. Ms. Mazarky explained the local school board is the grantee for the Pre-K program. When the school board chooses to operate an inclusion classroom, they may apply for Pre-K funding if they meet the requirements. The advantage for them is meeting the federal mandate to provide least restrictive environments while also receiving supporting funds from Georgia's Pre-K. Ms. Mazarky was asked to

comment on an article in the paper reporting Georgia's ranking of third for access and numbers served. She responded the article was in regards to the release of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) report on the state of preschool.

b. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler previewed the agency's new website (www.decal.ga.gov). The site has been designed as a portal for information on children ages zero to five. The design team concentrated especially on ease of navigation. Agency program areas are displayed prominently in tabs. Features include an announcement section and updated news content on the home page. Content is updated often to attract return visitors. The "About Us" section lists all agency programs with quick links. Much time has been spent identifying the most frequently asked questions for the FAQs section; posting easily answered questions has reduced the agency's high call volume. A list of commonly used acronyms is also available. The team is working on improving the keyword search feature. The Commissioner noted the agency has received a very positive response from the public, government entities, and stakeholders. Ms. Turner commented the website's navigation makes sense and seems much easier. Ms. Martinez gave recommendations to the new board member website. The agency will follow up on the suggestions to determine what changes can be made. Ms. Talton raised a concern about posting a personal e-mail account for board members and prefers having the agency monitor and filter the general board account. Ms. Martinez stated board members should have direct access from the public since they represent the public. The Commissioner commented it is important to avoid any impression that people cannot get in touch with the board member who represents them. Most board members indicated their comfort with the existing process.

c. CCS Overview

Justine Strickland updated the board on the implementation of blended caseloads for Child Care Services (CCS) consultants. (See slides.) The division is exploring how to streamline data processes. She noted monthly reports can be reviewed by managers more efficiently as a result of Mr. Detweiler's improvements. With the approval of additional staff, the division is able to visit every program, including family providers, at least once a year. Two thirds of high risk programs have moved into higher levels of compliance following targeted technical assistance. She also reported Head Start, which is federally funded, has received stimulus funds to expand; a current bill would continue funding beyond the stimulus package. The Commissioner affirmed the CCS team has "moved mountains" to make significant gains in quality. Ms. Strickland stated her appreciation of the board for its movements in the rule process. Ms. Turner asked if centers with adverse action are concentrated in specific regions of the state. They are all over the state. She also asked what adverse action typically entails; in particular, will a center be closed down if it cannot pay a fine? The agency's goal is not to close down centers but to raise their quality. For example, the agency has worked with programs to apply potential fines to making necessary repairs instead. A revocation is the last resort and only applies to those centers which continually remain grossly noncompliant despite the agency's corrective action and technical assistance efforts. Programs that care about children generally make the improvements they need to avoid adverse action. Ms. Turner inquired what degree of noncompliance places a program at risk for adverse action, since accidents do happen even in the best programs. Ms. Strickland stated accidental injuries are

taken into consideration. Adverse action follows multiple accidents, complaint investigations, findings of inadequate supervision, and a failure to make safety improvements. The agency is not seeking to take an adversarial role with providers. In fact, the vast majority of centers and groups and homes do a good job. To increase the board's understanding of this issue, Mr. Morgan requested the history of a center in adverse action be presented at the next board meeting.

d. Rule Update

Ashley Peacock presented a review of rule amendments approved by the board in November 2008, effective May 7, 2009, and rule amendments approved by the board that are currently moving forward. Mr. Peacock also introduced newly proposed center, group, and family rule amendments for the board's consideration. (See slides.) The proposed rule against rough play targets rough treatment from program staff, not rough play between children; the previously approved rule on developmentally appropriate practices already addresses peer interaction as a part of social emotional development. Ms. Martinez commented on the current lawsuit on bullies and wants to be sure the agency's rules cover such situations. Concerning whether the proposed rule prohibiting vicious animals defines which animals are covered, Mr. Peacock stated the rule uses the language "such as" to list various animals. For the proposed rule on anchoring items prone to tipping, consultants will provide technical assistance on how to anchor these items. Ms. Turner commented the rule is written very generally and asked if a standard height or other element could be specified; the potential for a consultant's subjective judgment is a concern. Mr. Peacock responded the agency does not want to place an undue burden by choosing an arbitrary height since not every unanchored item is in danger of tipping and will cause injury; the agency will develop consultant training materials for implementing the rule. For the proposed rule requiring a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, the agency chose a date of 2012 to provide adequate lead time for providers and to be consistent with the rising Pre-K requirements. A waiver variance process will remain in place. Current statute gives the agency authority for increased fines, but this is not reflected in current rules and regulations. Following approval of the proposed rule, the agency will develop guidelines for what situations would call for increased civil penalties. Less than 20 civil penalties occurred this year. Typically the most egregious situations take place in family day care homes. Vice Chair Mallory requested an increase to the seven days advance time given to board members to review proposed rule amendments with all due diligence. The Commissioner believes sending them 15 days in advance should be possible. Rules will be considered and brought to a vote later in the day.

e. (Break)

f. Quality Initiatives & Nutrition Services Updates

Karen Robinson presented updates on Nutrition Services and Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) The agency is introducing for the first time a Child Care Resource and Referral System. A June 1 press conference with the Commissioner will be held to present the new system. The system includes a single state database, a web-based system linking to the agency website, and a state call line: (877) ALL-GA-KIDS. In addition, resource and referral regions have been consolidated from 14 to six. (See slide for map.) Among intense competition, contracts were awarded to four successful bidders: Quality Care for Children (Regions 1, 2, and 6), Medical College of Georgia (Region 3), Dalton College (Region 4), and

Savannah Technical College (Region 5). The Request for Proposal asked for innovative delivery systems to be consistent across each region, not just in proximity to a central office. The Commissioner commented this is a significant change; the agency made sure there were clear accountability measures in the RFPs for responsiveness to parents and providers. The agency is confident the state will see a difference in services for quality for children and in resources for parents and providers. Ms. Harper expressed her desire to visit the resource and referral agency in her region and asked what she might expect to see. Ms. Robinson responded the agency's services will not be office based but will include trainings, CDA advisement, and parent education through the whole region. Mr. Mallory noted board members are welcome to make such visits but reminded the board visits should be coordinated through the agency. The number of nutrition meals served increased 3% from the previous year.

g. Budget Update

Leslie Lowe updated the board on the agency's final appropriations for fiscal year 2010 and the next steps in the budget process. (See slides.) The agency recently received an additional reduction in state funds for FY2009 due to the state's low April revenues. The agency continues to permit essential travel only. The travel budget precludes a board planning retreat. The board must approve a FY2011 budget request at the August board meeting.

h. Questions & Comments

5. Committee Meetings/Lunch

6. Committee Reports

a. Communications

Gabrielle Braswell reported for the Communications Committee. Board members will receive a preliminary list of supporting organizations for the millionth child campaign in the next couple of weeks; they are requested to act as goodwill ambassadors, expressing gratitude to participating organizations by phone call or letter (a template will be provided). Board members may also provide referrals to the agency for any contacts from other organizations. Board members were also requested to help publicize the June 1 launch of the statewide toll free number for Child Care Resource and Referral, the website's new design and features, and the effort to log online one million books read to children

b. Budget & Finance

Carlene Talton reported for the Finance Committee. The committee considered vendors for automating some of Child Care Services' paper processes. The agency's finances included \$51,000 in extra expenditures in three categories. One of these is the Nutrition program, which will be reimbursed as a federal entitlement. The others will be covered by moving existing funds. Two current vacancies in the agency will be filled with federal stimulus money. The agency expects \$14 million in programming funds from the federal stimulus. Stimulus funds will be channeled through the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), and reporting requirements are coordinated with them. Ms. Martinez suggested board members pay for a planning retreat themselves since there is no funding in the budget. It was noted a retreat would still present some expense to the agency for staff to attend. Dr. Ormsby asked for the purpose of

a board retreat. The Commissioner responded training, a review of board goals, and the balanced scorecard would topics discussed at the retreat. Mr. Mallory commented on the importance of a planning retreat. Discussion of a retreat will be placed on the agenda for the August board meeting.

c. Programs

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. The committee recommended telephone or GoToMeeting conferences among board members to discuss proposed rules and raise questions prior to the board meeting. The committee discussed rules and guidance, especially the importance of providers understanding what each rule means. The committee desires quality care for the state's children but does not want to drive providers out of business. They would like to "take heed" of any trends that emerge from public comments. Mr. Morgan motioned on behalf of the committee for proposed rule amendments to be approved as presented, to go forward in the rule process, and go to public hearings. Ms. Turner recused herself from the vote due to financial implications of the rule amendments. The new rule amendments were unanimously approved by the board.

i. *Voting on Rules

Mr. Morgan motioned on behalf of the committee for proposed rule amendments to be approved as presented, to go forward in the rule process, and go to public hearings. Ms. Turner recused herself from the vote due to financial implications of the rule amendments. The new rule amendments were unanimously approved by the board.

Voting

Ted Mallory - Yes
 Carlene Talton - Yes
 Darrell Wilder - No Vote
 Carolyn Ormsby - Yes
 Susan Harper - Yes
 Melissa Turner - Recused
 Gabrielle Braswell - Yes
 Victor Morgan - Yes
 Maggie Martinez - Yes

d. Ethics

Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. She emphasized board members cannot use their board member role to promote their private or business interests. Mr. Peacock added if complaints or compliance issues come up in their public engagements, board members should refer these to the agency; they do not need to take it upon themselves to provide an answer. The Commissioner reminded the board of state ethics rules; a member of one state board was recently dismissed because of a violation. The agency does want board members to be comfortable in their roles and values them as ambassadors. Ms. Martinez expressed her sense of a lack of a public role for the board and stated there is much more the board could be used for to support the agency in public.

7. Board Member Updates

The Vice Chair invited board members to speak to the group. He began by sharing his experience at an airport authority meeting the previous night. While sitting with a state representative, he commented on what is being done through agency to support quality. He was also present to support the Commissioner when she addressed the Rotary Club in Griffin, Ga. Dr. Ormsby reported she attended a town meeting in Conyers wearing her board nametag and received inquiries about the agency from people she met. She was able to speak with a state senator and a state representative. Ms. Talton shared her district continues to have more recognized centers of quality. The Commissioner recognized board member Dixie Kinard for receiving the Honor Pin from the Girl Scouts for her volunteer work in their support in Whitfield and Murray counties.

8. Commissioner's Report

a. Mission & Vision Statements

Commissioner Robinson stated the agency's personnel are focused on quality of early care and learning and on maintaining research-based standards.

b. Commissioner's Activities

The Commissioner shared the budget process has not been easy, but the agency has focused its dollars on the care of children. The agency is glad for the 3,000 additional Pre-K slots.

c. Testifying Before US House of Representative

The Commissioner was called to testify in Washington, D.C., before the House Education and Labor Committee. She was the only one present who was an agency head implementing programs. In her testimony, she stressed the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) should recognize more than one state education agency in those states (currently three) that assign a separate lead agency for early education. USDOE is set up for federal funds go through the Georgia Department of Education or DHR first before this agency receives the funding. Board members are encouraged to raise this issue with Georgia's congressional delegation.

d. Presentation to Council of Foundations

The Commissioner was able to address a national gathering of representatives from many foundations.

e. Stimulus

The agency did not receive any federal stimulus dollars directly and will only receive the four percent quality dollars passed on from DHR. The expected stimulus amount of \$14 million is much lower than what other agencies will receive. The Commissioner expressed her confidence the agency is well prepared to meet the accountability requirements for its use of federal stimulus funds because of the Balanced Scorecard process.

f. Early Education Commission

The Commissioner continues to participate in the Early Education Commission regular meetings, which include significant business representation from the

metropolitan Atlanta area.

g. Legislative Summary

Not much of the legislative action will directly impact the agency. The Pre-K Study Committee came up with strong recommendations. The agency continues to receive inquiries from legislative members.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Mallory expressed appreciation for the regular Commissioner's Updates sent by e-mail. Ms. Martinez added these help board members have updated information for use in their ambassadorial role. The Commissioner reminded the board Ms. Lackey is always available as their first point of contact with the agency. The dates for the remaining 2009 meetings of the board are August 13 and November 12. Ms. Martinez requested moving the August date in subsequent years because it is a difficult month for school administrators. Ms. Talton agreed. The agency will investigate whether the date can be changed. The Commissioner noted many state boards meet simultaneously, and a change may not be possible. Mr. Mallory requested board members to consider a board planning retreat and what the agenda might include. The Commissioner thanked board members for their comments, the issues they raise to make the agency better, and their support. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary

DECAL - Bright from the Start**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 7/23/2014 8:11 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
8/13/2009 9:00:00 AM**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place - 6th Floor Boardroom - Atlanta,
GA

Holly A. Robinson, Commissioner

Attendees - voting members

Ted Mallory	Board Vice Chair, District 3
Carlene Talton	Board Secretary, District 5
Darrell Wilder	Board Member, District 1
Carolyn Ormsby	Board Member, District 4
Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Gabrielle Braswell	Board Member, District 6
Dixie Kinard	Board Member, District 9
Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10
Victor Morgan	Board Member, District 11
Ms. Melissa Turner	Board Member, District 7

Attendees - other

Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Megan Larkins	Office of Planning & Budget
Leslie Lowe	Chief Financial Officer
Mary Mazarky	Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Stacey Moore	Public Relations Director
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer
Holly Robinson	Commissioner
Karen Robinson	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Justine Strickland	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care

Meeting Minutes

Public Guests: Frank Bennett and Devin Wright from Georgia Child Care Association

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ted Mallory called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He passed on the regards of the Chair and noted her letter of support for the proposed rules. He announced board member Katie Ward was not able to attend. Guests were invited to introduce themselves. Board member Janice Gallimore was introduced via teleconference.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Mr. Morgan moved to approve the agenda for the day and the minutes of the May 14, 2009, meeting of the board. Ms. Kinard seconded. Agenda and minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Victor Morgan
Motion seconded by: Dixie Kinard

Voting

Unanimously Approved

- a. *Approve agenda for 8/13/09 meeting
- b. *Approve minutes from 5/14/09 meeting

3. Inspiration

For the inspiration, Vice Chair Ted Mallory shared an e-mail he received from a military chaplain stationed in Iraq describing the dedication of the American soldiers to the national anthem.

4. Bright from the Start Presentations

- a. Pre-K Update

Mary Mazarky presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) Details of Pre-K provider funding in fiscal year 2009 were presented. The Love. Read. Learn! project's positive evaluation results were shared; the program continues in the new school year and is expected to expand. In a partnership with the Chinese government and the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University, Chinese language and culture instruction will be included in three Pre-K sites: Hall County's World Learning Academy, a Sunshine House location, and a Montessori program. The Pre-K Work Sampling Online project will double this year to 8,000 children, and Georgia Department of Education Special Education students will add an additional 9,500 to the project. The Professional Development Registry has gone offline for the time being while the system is brought in house. The Millionth Child Celebration officially kicked off with First Lady Mary Perdue's announcement in July. The First Lady will also host a Reading Under the Stars evening for Pre-K children at the Governor's Mansion. The Georgia Lottery Corporation has developed a tall sign that will be placed at all Pre-K sites throughout the state. The additional 3,000 Pre-K slots have been added this school year, raising the number of children served to 82,000. The number of classes that the Pre-K division is still waiting to fund was requested by Ms. Turner and will be provided.

- b. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler presented updates on the website and the assignment of Georgia Testing ID numbers to Pre-K children. (See slides.) Use of the website has increased since the redesign. The average length of visit to the website has increased from around one minute to more than six minutes. The employment page used for teachers has received numerous hits. The agency expects a user-friendly website will reduce its large call volume. Through the linking of data between the agency and the Georgia Department of Education (DOE), Kindergarten teachers will be able to know if their student participated in Georgia's Pre-K. The agency is negotiating with DOE to allow Kindergarten teachers to see Work Sampling Online assessment data from their students' Pre-K education. Assessment alignment is also taking place between Pre-K and Kindergarten. The data linkage allows the agency to track student progress from Pre-K onward and makes the state's education system truly a Pre-K-12

system.

c. CCS Overview

Justine Strickland presented an update on Child Care Services (see slides). She emphasized the agency's focus on high quality standards for the sake of children. She reminded the board Georgia ranks in the bottom ten nationally in child care regulations. The purpose of rule changes is to move Georgia out of the bottom ten and protect the health and safety of the children. She noted the large number of comments received on proposed rule amendments through the public meeting process, particularly concerns over securing furniture. The agency has worked to provide clarification of these rules. Public hearings do not provide a dialogue format. Therefore, seven community forums have been planned in August to provide clarification and open discussion. The Vice Chair commented on the need for correcting misinformation. The rules under question should not be controversial; constituents believe it is a good idea to prevent heavy objects from falling on children. He asked what lengths the board should go in dictating how a rule will be implemented. Ms. Strickland responded the agency provides guidance directly to providers through consultants and through educational activities. Mr. Morgan commented how rules need interpretive guides; the board cannot include too much specificity in a rule or the rules will have to be updated too often. Mr. Mallory reminded the board it is an advisory board. Ms. Braswell expressed concern about the pressures of reading, processing, and voting on rule changes on the same day. Mr. Mallory informed the board new protocols have been implemented by the Programs Committee to address this concern. Ms. Kinard stated the rules communications presented the facts clearly and should not have produced such confusion. Mr. Morgan commented that the public hearing process provides an opportunity for feedback, to obtain information on where confusion exists, and then taking time to formulate a response. Ms. Braswell expressed her desire for the board to better anticipate potential questions and concerns. Ms. Strickland noted the significant rules the board has already passed received no pushback. Now, the board is addressing more difficult rules, such as credentialing, which are needed to move Georgia out of the bottom nationally. Mr. Mallory commented the associations are responsible for combating misinformation. Ms. Turner noted the large public response at the public hearings indicates providers want to be heard. She stated a large number of providers want the best for the children in their care and do not disagree with all the changes. She added , providers do not make a lot of money and some rule changes are difficult to implement because of economic reasons. Ms. Kinard asked if there is a disconnection in communities regarding technical colleges offering CDA credential support as claimed. The Commissioner affirmed technical colleges have funding to help with tuition expenses for CDA credential coursework. Ms. Strickland added technical colleges assure the agency they will be able to meet increased CDA demand by 2010. Also, the CDA credential is but one of the credential options available to providers.

d. Rule Update

Ashley Peacock presented a review of rule amendments approved by the board in February 2009, which will become effective within the month. Mr. Peacock also introduced proposed center, group, and family rule amendments for the board's consideration. (See slides.) He explained different kinds of early care settings have different State of Georgia rule chapters. Mr. Morgan announced the Programs Committee decided to meet prior to board meetings to discuss proposed rules in greater detail and provide time for formulating its

recommendations. Ms. Braswell asked if rules would still be voted on by the board on the same day that the Programs Committee makes its rules recommendation and inquired about having time to hear from constituents. Mr. Peacock stated the board must by law approve rules before they are presented to the public in the required format. If additional changes are made through the public hearing process, the board must revisit the rule to approve those changes. Any board member is invited to attend the Programs Committee meetings prior to the meeting of the board. The board will vote on the proposed rule amendments later in the day following the Program Committee meeting.

e. Quality Initiatives & Nutrition Services Updates

Karen Robinson presented updates on Nutrition Services and Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) She reviewed the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) and their national performance measures. The agency is developing an internal definition for the CCDF national goal of raising school readiness skills. The agency uses these funds for grants and contracts, technical assistance and training, and to support the Even Start program and the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) System. The reassigned CCR&R regions became effective July 1, providing dissemination of information from the agency as well as support for providers. The number of Child and Adult Care Food Program meals served and Summer Food Service Program meals served was reported. Ms. Turner asked if scholarships and incentives are available for private CDA classes. Ms. Robinson responded funding is not available for private CDA classes; HOPE grants are available for technical college attendees, and the department provides support and help with the non-tuition costs of national credentialing. The CCR&Rs are also contracted to provide CDA support.

f. Budget Update

Leslie Lowe updated the board on the agency's final appropriations for fiscal year 2010 and the next steps in the budget process. (See slides and attached budget.) The amended fiscal year 2010 and the fiscal year 2011 budget reduction requirements were presented. The board will vote on the budget reduction plans later in the day following the Finance Committee meeting. The agency's mandatory furlough plans have been submitted to the State Personnel Administration and approved. Ms. Lowe reported on proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus projects in the categories of quality improvement, professional development, infant toddler network, and information systems. (See slides.) These stimulus projects must meet strict accountability requirements. In order to encourage additional studies and build an educational ladder in the state's workforce, credential scholarships will prioritize the Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC), which meets the credential requirement. Mini-grants may be spent with some flexibility but must be tied to quality improvements. Ms. Turner asked if there is any discussion of providing an earlier reimbursement for teachers attending private CDA credential classes; Ms. Robinson responded these have been ruled out due to low completion rates. Ms. Turner stated there will always be a need for community-based CDA, but the requirement to pay \$1,200 up front and be reimbursed later might prove prohibitive. Dr. Ormsby noted the need for a personal financial investment to create personal buy-in to the program. Ms. Talton noted paraprofessionals faced a similar case when they were required to obtain a two-year degree. Paraprofessionals understood the new requirement and made plans to meet it. Ms. Harper asked about the work experience requirement for entrance to a CDA program – how can this work experience be acquired if a CDA credential is a requirement for the job? Mr. Mallory clarified the CDA

requirement only applies to lead teachers, so work experience can be acquired in another role in a child care setting.

- g. Break

5. Board Member Updates

The Vice Chair invited board members to provide updates on their activities. Dr. Ormsby reported her school has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon School. Mr. Wilder thanked Ms. Strickland's staff for helping a child care program in Valdosta start its after school care program. New Centers and Homes of Distinction were noted in Ms. Kinard and Mr. Morgan's districts; Ms. Talton and Ms. Gallimore also sent letters of congratulation to new Centers of Distinction in their districts.

6. Commissioner's Report

In response to concerns expressed in the employee survey over communication within the agency, constant communication comes out of the Commissioner's office to staff.

- a. Board Retreat/Budget

Commissioner Robinson reported the agency's planning for a board retreat was interrupted by the latest budget reductions and is now on hold.

- b. Millionth Child: Pre-K Providers Meeting Mrs. Perdue

The Commissioner shared the build-up for the Millionth Child Celebration has increased throughout the state. First Lady Mary Perdue and the Commissioner will appear together on Good Day Atlanta. The agency also eagerly anticipates the Reading Under the Stars evening the First Lady will host. The agency has received a commitment from the Atlanta Falcons to support the campaign. Georgia Public Television will film a documentary of the year and is seeking funding. The Georgia Lottery Corporation will do an advertisement related to the campaign. Where child care centers are hosting a Pre-K program, the agency wants to be sure zero-to-three classes are included in the celebration.

- c. Early Education Commission

The Early Education Commission is off until September; its year-end retreat focused on putting together materials to educate the public on early education.

- d. USDA Meeting Food & Nutrition

The Commissioner recently met with the head of the eight-state USDA region covering the Southeast. He praised the agency's food and nutrition program and indicated Georgia is the star state of the region and has the fewest findings.

7. Committee Meetings/Lunch

8. Committee Reports

- a. Communications

Gabrielle Braswell reported for the Communications Committee. Clarification

was sought on how board members can stay informed of issues that may arise. Board members need to be prepared to respond to media inquiries and be provided with talking points and guidelines for when to refer the media to the agency. The committee discussed the need to look for ways to enroll stakeholders early in the rule-making process, preferring to get feedback and address concerns proactively. Ideas included holding CCS-specific provider forums to get feedback on proposed rules prior to board approval; the Commissioner reported the agency already solicits provider input when drafting rules. Ms. Turner requested the rule amendment process be announced on the agency website. Going forward, Ms. Braswell suggested information sessions on rule amendments take place prior to board approval as a matter of practice. Mr. Morgan cautioned not all questions will be raised until the rules are issued to the public for comment. The committee also raised the question whether board members should attend public hearings on rule amendments. The Commissioner explained public hearings are run, by law, by a public hearing officer and the agency is not allowed to respond to public comments; it is a time to listen. Board members may attend, but a summary of points raised at hearings is shared with the board. The upcoming community forums are in a different format and will be run by Ms. Strickland. Board members are invited to attend.

b. Budget & Finance

Ms. Talton reported for the Finance Committee. Ms. Lowe presented budget cut levels of 4%, 6% and 8%. The agency is down to 0.8% state funds for its total budget, leaving little to consider cutting. The only differences in the proposed budget cut levels are in funding shifts. The board per diem is one proposed cut; this is never fully expended in any given year.

i. *Voting on Budget Changes

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Talton moved for the amended 2010 proposals to be approved. Dr. Ormsby seconded. The board voted and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Talton moved for the 2011 budget proposal to be approved, seconded by Ms. Braswell. Ms. Harper asked how the budget baselines for multiple years are determined. The same baseline is used for both 2010 and 2011; cuts are not cumulative. The 2011 budget proposal passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Carlene Talton

Motion seconded by: Gabrielle Braswell

Voting

Unanimously Approved

c. Programs

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. Proposed rule amendments for the board's approval were discussed. Rule changes include requiring documentation of who may pick a child up, specifying how long to keep attendance records., a change to the hand washing rule, and lowering the required refrigerator temperature from 45° to 40° F.

i. *Voting on Rules

The Programs Committee recommended the proposed rule amendments

be approved as presented. Ms. Harper seconded. Rule amendments were approved unanimously.

Motion made by: Victor Morgan
Motion seconded by: Susan Harper

Voting
Unanimously Approved

d. Ethics

Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. There were no pressing issues to raise. Mr. Mallory inquired if an ethics presentation is still given to new board members. Ms. Lackey affirmed the presentation is given and noted a copy of the state's ethics rules is provided; Ms. Harper requested a copy. Board members were reminded to fill out their financial disclosure carefully.

9. Adjournment

The Commissioner thanked board members for responding to the public and bringing good questions to the agency. She observed change is not always easy. Mr. Morgan commended association representatives in the audience for attending board meetings diligently. Ms. Braswell inquired if there is enough time after the board agenda is published for the public to request to speak at the meeting. The agency allows for an adequate period of time. Ms. Turner expressed her appreciation to the agency for providing information to the board. Vice Chair Ted Mallory commented the board is maturing. He encouraged the board to have the courage to make the proper decisions. He expressed appreciation for the agency's efficiency in responding to his recent questions. Ms. Gallimore thanked the leadership and thanked Ms. Lackey for making it possible for her to attend. Visitors and staff were thanked by the Vice Chair. The final 2009 meeting of the board will take place November 12. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary

DECAL - Bright from the Start**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:14 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
9/28/2009 8:00:00 AM**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place - 6th Floor Boardroom - Atlanta,
GA
Holly A. Robinson, Commissioner**Attendees - voting members**

Luann Purcell	Board Chair, District 8
Ted Mallory	Board Vice Chair, District 3
Carlene Talton	Board Secretary, District 5
Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Gabrielle Braswell	Board Member, District 6
Dixie Kinard	Board Member, District 9
Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10
Victor Morgan	Board Member, District 11
Ms. Melissa Turner	Board Member, District 7

Attendees - other

Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Leslie Lowe	Chief Financial Officer
Mary Mazarky	Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer
Holly Robinson	Commissioner
Karen Robinson	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Justine Strickland	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care

Meeting Minutes

Public Guests: Robert King, Korynn Schooley, and Ellen Williams

1. Call to Order

Luann Purcell called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. The board meeting was specially called to vote on revisions made to previously approved rule amendments in response to the oral comments made at the July 2009 Public Hearing, written comments submitted in response to the previously proposed rule changes, and suggestions made at the community forums held in August 2009. Board members were present via teleconference. Guests were invited to introduce themselves.

2. Committee Reports**a. Programs**

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee, which met in the previous

week to develop its recommendations.

- i. *Voting on Rules 591-1-1-.12, 290-2-1-.12, and 290-2-3-.12

Ashley Peacock was invited to present an overview of the revisions to Rules 591-1-1-.12, 290-2-1-.12, and 290-2-3-.12 pertaining to securing equipment and furniture in child care centers, group day care homes, and family day care homes. (See proposed rules.) Board members were invited to ask questions. Questions were also addressed ahead of time by e-mail. Mr. Morgan on behalf of the Programs Committee recommended the proposed rule amendments be approved as presented. Ted Mallory seconded. Chair Luann Purcell conducted a roll call vote. Susan Harper, Ted Mallory, Carlene Talton, Gabrielle Braswell, Melissa Turner, Luann Purcell, Dixie Kinard, Janice Gallimore, and Victor Morgan voted in favor. None opposed. Rule amendments were approved unanimously.

Motion made by: Victor Morgan

Motion seconded by: Ted Mallory

Voting

Unanimously Approved

3. Adjournment

The Commissioner invited board members to raise any questions or concerns. Vice Chair Ted Mallory sought clarification on whether revised rule amendments being brought back to the board would normally be considered in a specially called meeting rather than a regularly scheduled meeting. The Commissioner affirmed today's called meeting was a special case due to the timing in the approval process. Chair Luann Purcell observed the rules approved this day are consistent with the board's desires for insuring the safety and well-being of children and improving the quality of care offered by child care facilities and asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Ted Mallory motioned, Victor Morgan seconded. None opposed. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:22 a.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary

DECAL - Bright from the Start**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:14 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
11/12/2009 9:00:00 AM**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place - 6th Floor Boardroom - Atlanta,
GA
Holly A. Robinson, Commissioner**Attendees - voting members**

Dr. Luann Purcell	Board Chair, District 8
Ted Mallory	Board Vice Chair, District 3
Carlene Talton	Board Secretary, District 5
Carolyn Ormsby	Board Member, District 4
Ms. Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Mr. Phil Davis	Board Member, District 7
Dixie Kinard	Board Member, District 9
Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10

Attendees - other

Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Leslie Lowe	Chief Financial Officer
Mary Mazarky	Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K
Stacey Moore	Public Relations Director
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer
Holly Robinson	Commissioner
Karen Robinson	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Justine Strickland	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care

Meeting Minutes

Other Public Guests in Attendance: Melissa Lawrence, Bernard Reynolds, Eleanor Reynolds, Lynn Ross, and Pam Tatum

1. Call to Order

Chair Luann Purcell called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Board member Janice Gallimore was welcomed via teleconference.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- a. *Approve agenda for 11/12/09 meeting

Motion made by: Ted Mallory

Motion seconded by: Carolyn Ormsby

Voting

Unanimously Approved

b. *Approve minutes from 8/13/09 meeting

Mr. Mallory moved to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2009, meeting of the board. Ms. Talton seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Ted Mallory
Motion seconded by: Carlene Talton

Voting
 Unanimously Approved

c. *Approve minutes from 9/28/09 called board meeting

Motion made by: Ms. Susan Harper
Motion seconded by: Ted Mallory

Voting
 Unanimously Approved

3. Introduction of New Board Member

Phil Davis of the Seventh Congressional District was welcomed as the new board member. Mr. Davis commended the department for its efficiency and its recent Customer Service Award.

4. Inspiration

Chair Purcell shared thoughts from The Fred Factor by Mark Sanborn. She emphasized the agency, like Fred, pursues to do the "extraordinary" with what most people regard as very ordinary tasks. She reminded the board of the focus on each child. She expressed the board's gratitude to the staff. In honor of the season, she presented each board member with a scarecrow doll to pass on to a child.

5. Visitor Statement

Lynn Ross of the Georgia Child Care Association presented a prepared statement to the board.

6. Bright from the Start Presentations

a. Pre-K Update

Mary Mazarky presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) Selecting providers for funding and maintaining fill rate has been challenging because of providers closing and families relocating due to the present economic climate. Nevertheless, the fill rate remains at 99%. An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus project is providing funds to refresh all classrooms ten years old or older, while every classroom in the state has received an additional \$400. The funds are to be used for classroom equipment and supplies. The Pre-K Mandarin Program is operating at three Pre-K sites. Two of the programs were supplied with teachers from China. A video of Pre-K students learning Mandarin with their Chinese teacher was shared. Classroom technology provided by the Confucius Institute was also demonstrated. The Confucius Institute awards grants worldwide, and Georgia is the only Confucius Institute grantee teaching Mandarin to four year olds. Dr. Ormsby inquired about the Confucius Institute grant's application process. The grant was written

and submitted by Kennesaw State University; Georgia's Pre-K partners with them as one of their grant program initiatives. Ms. Harper noted research indicates bilingual education for children increases critical thinking skills. Millionth Child Celebration updates were presented. School Specialty has provided a matching grant for the million penny collection. One of the signs provided by the Georgia Lottery Corporation to all Georgia's Pre-K locations was on display. Board talking points for the celebration will be reviewed by the Communications Committee later in the day. Video of First Lady Mary Perdue and Commissioner Robinson's appearance on Good Day Atlanta was shown. The Commissioner stated the First Lady has given tremendous support to the campaign.

b. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler presented updates on technology. The web page for the Millionth Child Celebration was previewed, as well as the page for logging books read to children. The page includes a live counter of the number of books read. Visits to the website are up 48% from a year ago, and the average time spent on the website is up 318%. The most common search by visitors to the website is for employment. The technology unit is developing a new data system for Child Care Services to replace the current, vendor-provided system.

c. CCS Update

Justine Strickland presented updates on Child Care Services (CCS). (See slides.) Rule revisions are focused on health and safety for children. The division is working with the federal Child Care Bureau to research what other states do in licensing rules. Research from the field on best practices for children is also being reviewed. Research drives the rule revision process, with an aim of moving Georgia out of the bottom ten states nationally. CCS's data indicates an increase in provider compliance last year on core health and safety rules. The Infant Toddler Network is being established with ARRA stimulus dollars and will provide specialists to work with child care programs.

d. Rule Update

Ashley Peacock presented an update on the public hearing held in Macon on November 7, 2009. The agency is awaiting receipt of the transcript.

e. Quality Initiatives & Nutrition Services Updates

Karen Robinson presented updates on Nutrition Services and Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) The number of meals served through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) continues to rise. The agency partners with the Georgia Department of Education to serve Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals; the agencies work together to report the full number of meals. The Commissioner pointed out the importance of continuing to grow the SFSP to provide nutritious meals to students while school is out. The state's centralized parent referral system, managed by Quality Care for Children, has a 34% increase in use. The Commissioner noted Pam Tatum, CEO of Quality Care for Children, is present if anyone would like to ask about the system. The FIRST Program has been started with ARRA stimulus funds to provide an incentive for early care staff to obtain their first credential. The program received good publicity. The program flyer and brochure were shared with the board. Over 150 pre-applications have already been received. Video news coverage from Channel 13 WMAZ in Macon was shown. Dr. Ormsby asked if a list of colleges

offering the credentials is available; the list is posted on the website. The Commissioner stated the agency has focused on putting its stimulus dollars out in the field. Ms. Kinard asked if all states received the same amount of stimulus funding for quality projects; funding varies by state based on a federal allocation formula, and the agency receives 4% of the federal quality dollars given to the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS).

f. Budget Update

Leslie Lowe updated the board on the budget status. (See slides.) Savings achieved by the agency in fiscal year 2009 include the following: 17% postage reduction in CCS, 91% printing reduction in CCS, 43% postage reduction in Pre-K, 50% printing reduction in Pre-K, a two-million-dollar savings in Quality from the reorganization of Child Care Resource & Referral agencies, 80% supply order reduction in Quality, 70% printing reduction in Nutrition, and 31% travel reduction in Nutrition. Postage and printing savings reflect the increased use of e-mail and the web for agency communications and distribution of materials. All programs contributed toward department savings. The board will vote in the afternoon on the request for an additional 2,000 Pre-K slots for 2011. ARRA stimulus projects were reviewed. Ms. Lowe announced the agency has received its seventh consecutive clean audit; the board applauded in response. Mr. Davis asked how far the agency has gone in meeting mandated cuts; they have all been met, including those required in the mid-year amended budget. Dr. Ormsby commented the agency has done an outstanding job surviving through the state budget crisis. She is impressed by how much the agency does with so little funding. Vice Chair Mallory commented the clean audit results and the budgetary steps taken reflect the agency's phenomenal management of money. Chair Purcell commended the agency for its ability to still achieve high levels of customer service despite the major budget cuts.

g. Break

7. Board Member Updates

a. Project Director Meeting - Carolyn Ormsby

Dr. Ormsby reported how Honey Creek Elementary School is pleased with its Pre-K program and the Pre-K director training. She commented on the organization and thoroughness of the training. Pictures of Honey Creek Elementary School's new Pre-K sign were presented.

b. Albany Meeting - Susan Harper

Ms. Harper reported on her attendance at the agency's community forum in Albany. The meeting was well attended, demonstrating the high level of public interest. The accessibility of the classes for child care staff credential requirements was one concern raised at the meeting. High-speed internet service is not readily available in southwest Georgia and can be expensive. The Commissioner reported the agency has pursued community-based credential training in follow-up to this issue.

c. JEBC - Resolution: Georgia Technical College System - Ted Mallory

Vice Chair Mallory reported on a resolution of the Joint Education Board Liaison Committee (JEBC) urging high schools, technical colleges and universities to institute a dual enrollment and dual credit system in all Georgia high schools.

Chair Purcell stated a motion of support from the board would be appropriate. Mr. Davis moved, Vice Chair Mallory seconded, and the motion of support passed unanimously. The Chair commented on the importance of a seamless decision process in education systems from preschool to college. Vice Chair Mallory reported Commissioner Robinson is held in high regard by all the state education boards.

8. Commissioner's Report

a. Race to the Top

In preparation for the state's Race to the Top federal grant application, the Commissioner reported she is chairing the Standards and Assessment Group. She emphasized the importance of this group with positioning the agency to keep the focus on early learning and to ensure the agency is included in a grant initiative.

b. Legislative Session

The Commissioner reported on her presentation at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the agency's management of its dollars. More budget cuts will be coming. The Commissioner reminded the board that agency staff members have provided valuable suggestions on ways to reduce expenses.

c. Customer Service Award Ceremony

The Commissioner reported the agency received the Customer Service Award for The Most Improved Organization. A total of 575 award applications were submitted to a business-led review committee, and over 40 finalists were invited to the awards ceremony. Ms. Lowe stated the agency's application for the award included strong data-based and outcomes-based information. Ms. Harper commented early education is important enough that the agency's work deserves to be highlighted across the state and in the legislature.

9. Committee Meetings/Lunch

10. Committee Reports

Chair Purcell reviewed the board committee structure. She noted this meeting would be opportune for discussing changing one's committee assignment. As the board has achieved its full complement and becomes more mature, the processes and procedures of other state boards should be reviewed. The Ethics Committee was charged with this task. The Budget and Finance Committee and the Communications Committee have content assigned to them this day. Mr. Davis accepted the Chair's invitation to serve on the Ethics Committee.

a. Communications

Ms. Kinard reported for the Communications Committee. Jars will be provided to board members for collecting pennies for the Millionth Child Celebration. The committee reviewed talking points related to the campaign. These points were distributed to board members. An electronic copy of the talking points will be sent to the board once final suggestions are received.

b. Budget & Finance

Ms. Talton reported for the Finance Committee. The committee discussed stimulus projects in more detail; 16% of funds are already out. Margie Landers was recognized for the agency's audit results. The board has to vote on one budget-related item. The department suggests a fiscal year 2011 request for 2,000 additional Pre-K slots. This request has the Governor's approval. The committee recommended approval. The board voted and the request was unanimously approved

i. *Voting on Budget

The committee recommended approval. The board voted and the request was unanimously approved

Voting

Unanimously Approved

c. Programs

Karen Robinson reported for the Programs Committee. Blended caseloads in child care monitoring were discussed in more detail. Technical assistance for national accreditation, contracted through the Black Child Development Institute – Atlanta Affiliate, the Georgia School Age Care Association and the Georgia Association on Young Children, was also discussed. A total of 74 child care providers are receiving assistance through the contracts. CDA advisement is also being provided, especially in southwest Georgia.

d. Ethics

Ms. Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. Mr. Peacock and Sophal Lackey will collect ethics guidelines from other state boards. The committee will review these and formulate an ethics statement for the board to consider at the next meeting. Chair Purcell reminded board members of the requirement to submit their financial disclosure statements. Ms. Lackey is available to provide support on meeting this requirement. The disclosure statement in the initial board application is for a separate process and does not meet the annual financial disclosure requirement.

11. Adjournment

The Commissioner thanked board members for their hard work and wished them happy holidays. Chair Purcell expressed her appreciation to board members. Mr. Davis reported orders for his electrical contracting company are up and is hopeful the economy will improve. Dr. Ormsby reported U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has stated right now is "the best time to be in education." Dr. Purcell stated Georgia placed among the top 15 for participation in the Race to the Top initiative and is well situated to capitalize on new investments in education. Ms. Kinard motioned to adjourn. Vice Chair Mallory seconded. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Motion made by: Dixie Kinard

Motion seconded by: Ted Mallory

Voting

Unanimously Approved

a. Adopt Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Chair Luann Purcell presented proposed quarterly board meeting dates for 2010: February 11, May 13, August 12 and November 18. Any additional meetings can be arranged as needed. Vice Chair Mallory moved to accept the proposed meeting dates. Dr. Ormsby seconded. The 2010 board meeting dates were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Ted Mallory

Motion seconded by: Carolyn Ormsby

Voting

Unanimously Approved

Board Chair

Board Secretary