

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

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:18 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Called  
Telephone Meeting****1/3/2012 3:30:00 PM**2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, East Tower,  
8th Floor, Hickory Room

Atlanta, GA 30334

Bobby D. Cagle, Commissioner

**Attendees - voting members**

Dr. Luann Purcell	Board Vice Chair, District 8
Ms. Carlene Talton	Board Member, District 5
Dr. Carolyn Ormsby	Board Chair, District 4
Ms. Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Mr. Phil Davis	Board Member, District 7
Mr. Victor Morgan	Board Secretary, District 11

**Attendees - other**

Susan Adams	Assistance Commissioner of Pre-K
Mr. Bobby D Cagle	Commissioner
Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Carol Hartman	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Kay Hellwig	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care
Ray Higgins	CFO
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer

**1. Call to Order**

(Additional DECAL Staff Attendees: Dee Bolden, Stacey Moore)

(Other Guests: Anne Rosanthal)

Dr. Carolyn Ormsby, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. She stated the reason for the meeting is to revote on the proposed exemption rules. She emphasized the importance of reviewing all comments received by the public, and the additional five comments have been forwarded to the board for review. Commissioner Cagle stated these additional five written comments submitted by e-mail, housed in a separate folder, were inadvertently not forwarded to the board. When this was discovered, a revote was deemed necessary. Changes have been made to include additional measures to ensure future comments are forwarded properly. Board members joined via conference call and GoToMeeting.

**2. Program & Rules Committee Report****a. Proposed Rule Amendments**

Dr. Ormsby called on Victor Morgan, Board Secretary and Program & Rules Committee Chair, to discuss the proposed exemption rules. Secretary Morgan stated board members have reviewed the additional comments that were forwarded to the board prior to the called board meeting. Mr. Morgan stated the additional comments were consistent with the comments received before. On

behalf of the committee, Mr. Morgan recommended approval of the proposed exemption rules, with the same understanding that the department will conduct more research into the summer camps. Commissioner Cagle stated the department has already contacted specific summer programs to determine how best to address safety. Mr. Morgan emphasized safety of boys and girls in these programs is a priority.

i. Proposed Exemption Rules

ii. Susan Harper raised the YMCA letter for discussion and asked for clarification concerning exemption status of these types of programs. Kay Hellwig clarified that Boys and Girls Clubs of America are typically exempt because they have to abide by national standards. However, YMCA programs operate both exempt programs and non-exempt licensed early learning centers and school age programs.

Ms. Harper also inquired into the exemption for exempts programs operated by government entities. Ashley Peacock explained that Bright from the Start does not have jurisdiction over another government agency. Ms. Harper stated the importance of educating programs on these distinctions.

Dr. Ormsby asked the board's vote on adopting the proposed exemption rules. Ms. Harper seconded. The board voted unanimously.

Motion made by: Dr. Carolyn Ormsby

Motion seconded by: Ms. Susan Harper

Voting

Unanimously Approved

### 3. Adjournment

Dr. Ormsby expressed condolences to Commissioner Cagle concerning Bright from the Start not winning the Early Learning Challenge Grant. Commissioner Cagle appreciated her comments and stated the department was disappointed but is working on a plan. Dr. Ormsby thanked the board for their time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next regular board meeting is scheduled February 16, 2012.

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary

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

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:18 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting  
2/16/2012 9:00:00 AM**Twin Tower - East Tower, 8th Floor, Hickory  
Room2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA  
30334

Bobby D. Cagle, Commissioner

## DRAFT AGENDA

**Attendees - voting members**

Dr. Luann Purcell	Board Vice Chair, District 8
Ms. Carlene Talton	Board Member, District 5
Ms. Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Ms. Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10
Mr. Victor Morgan	Board Secretary, District 11

**Attendees - other**

Susan Adams	Assistance Commissioner of Pre-K
Mr. Bobby D Cagle	Commissioner
Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Carol Hartman	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Kay Hellwig	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care
Ray Higgins	CFO
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ashley Peacock	Chief Legal Officer

**1. Call to Order**

(Additional DECAL Staff attending: Dee Bolden, Margie Landers, Mark Waits)

(Other Guests: Kerri Wilson, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Paula Charles, John Hicks, Hows King, Mary Lyons, Cheryl Odom, Carolyn Salvador, Elisa Shepherd, Bill Smith, Sharon Stanley, Charlene Taylor, Gloria Wills-Powel)

Vice Chair Luann Purcell called the meeting to order. She welcomed guests attending the meeting. Board members Janice Gallimore and Carlene Talton were welcomed via teleconference.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

- a. \*Approve agenda for 2/16/12 meeting

Victor Morgan moved to accept the agenda for the day. Susan Harper seconded. The agenda was unanimously accepted.

Motion made by: Mr. Victor MorganMotion seconded by: Ms. Susan HarperVoting

Unanimously Approved

- b. \*Approve minutes from 11/17/11 Board Meeting and 1/3/12 Called Telephone Board Meeting

Mr. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2011, meeting of the board. Ms. Harper seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2012, called meeting of the board. Ms. Harper seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by: Mr. Victor Morgan

Motion seconded by: Ms. Susan Harper

Voting

Unanimously Approved

### **3. Inspiration**

Mr. Morgan shared an inspirational story called "Not a One!" about a boy making Valentines cards for all the children in his class. The key message was that the board cannot overlook "not a one" child, and the work of the board has importance for every and all types of children.

### **4. Board Member Updates**

### **5. Bright from the Start Presentations**

- a. Child Care Services Update

Kay Hellwig presented updates on Child Care Services (CCS). (See slides.) She reported the agency is reviewing how it determines compliance. Dr. Richard Fiene of Pennsylvania State University will review and validate the current system. The FPG Child Development Institute will review the effectiveness and efficiency of the monitoring process in comparison with other states.

Commissioner Cagle reported working with a researcher at Emory University on the incidence of fatalities in child care centers.

Ms. Hellwig reported on the revocation notice process for programs that have not paid their license fee. These program have been contacted repeatedly by phone and email, and 113 programs will receive a notice. None of the affected programs are Georgia's Pre-K providers. License fees range from \$50 to \$250 depending on the size of the program. The late fee is half the license fee. Currently, the agency does not have a process for incremental payments to aid programs with budgeting but will explore possible options. The Commissioner stated the agency has also worked with the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) to notify programs receiving a revocation are also endangering their subsidy payments. The Commissioner stated some programs also need to improve their business practices.

Ms. Hellwig presented the agency's proposed plan over the next year for updating day camp program rules. Proposed rule revisions will be presented to the board in August and a public hearing held in October in order for the new rules to become effective in January 2013. Programs need this length of time to prepare for the licensing process.

#### b. Pre-K Update

Susan Adams presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She explained the difference between budgeted Pre-K slots and allocated Pre-K slots; budgeted slots are the number the agency is able to fund, and allocated slots are the number the agency has allotted to programs. Usually the two numbers are closer, but this year the allocated slots and fill rate are lower following the closure process last year. Pre-K pays a per child rate; programs are paid for the number of children enrolled.

Ms. Adams reported a significant drop in Pre-K teacher retention rates this year, particularly in public schools with T&E payments being capped in the budget reductions.

This school year the Pre-K calendar was reduced from 180 to 160 instructional days. The Governor's proposed budget would add 10 instructional days to the Pre-K calendar next year. Funding would be budgeted for 84,000 children, with no change in class size. Adding instructional days was prioritized in the proposed budget over reducing the class size.

Vice Chair Purcell inquired into demographic data of children not served by Pre-K. The agency does not have good information on this population. The FPG Child Development Institute has proposed a study of characteristics of children on the waiting list compared to children served. The geographic locations of children not served would also be studied. Vice Chair Purcell inquired into the required class size for Kindergarten compared to the 22 children in Pre-K classrooms; it is believed to be 18, although waivers are often granted for larger class sizes.

#### c. Quality Initiatives Update

Carol Hartman presented updates on Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) She reported on the launch of Quality Rated, the agency's tiered quality rating and improvement system. Compliance refers to a child care program meeting licensing rule requirements for basic health and safety, and compliance is mandatory. However, Quality Rated is a voluntary program with more robust standards of quality and provides a quality designation to child care locations. A total of 357 programs serving over 30,000 children have already applied to participate. Percentages of eligible licensed programs, which have applied, were grouped by resource and referral regions and by congressional districts. Providers in the application process will submit a portfolio to be verified by the agency.

Commissioner Cagle reported on the progress of the agency's fundraising goals for Quality Rated. The program can be scaled based on the amount of philanthropic funding raised. The first private dollars raised will be announced in the near future.

#### d. Break

#### e. Finance, Nutrition, & Legislative Update

Ray Higgins presented updates on the agency's finances, the nutrition program,

and potential legislation impacting the work of the agency. (See slides.) He provided an update on year-to-date expenditures for FY 2012. He reported on the Governor's amended 2012 budget. The House version of the budget currently contains a reduction in state funds of \$7,500. The proposed 2013 budget includes the transfer of the child care subsidy program (CAPS) to the agency from the DHS. CAPS is a federally funded program with a budget of approximately \$168 million in federal dollars and \$54 million in state dollars. The Pre-K budget has been under discussion in the legislature with a potential for an increase in operating costs.

The numbers of meals served in nutrition programs were presented. The agency is working to expand Summer Food Service Program into counties not currently participating. A former Atlanta sports figure has expressed interest in sponsoring and helping to promote the program.

Potential laws requiring drug testing for recipients of public assistance have been proposed in the Georgia legislature, but CAPS is not currently included.

Mr. Higgins announced the promotion of Sophal Lackey to the position of Organizational Development Director.

#### f. Legal Update

Ashley Peacock presented updates on the Legal Unit. (See slides.) The emergency closure rule was recently used by the department to close a program in Columbus for serious rule violations. The Commissioner commended Mr. Peacock for his preparation for the closure hearing.

The enhanced transportation rules and exemption rules previously approved by the board are now in effect.

#### g. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler presented updates on technology. (See slides.) The IT unit is actively supporting license fee collection. Quality Rated will feature online applications and online portfolio submissions; the agency has not found other states with an online portfolio system. The agency will be replacing the child care licensing database with an internally developed system. It will provide a greater amount of flexibility, including provider self-service to update provider data. This database will go live July 1.

The State Advisory Council was able to reallocate some funds into an initial implementation of the Unified Data Project by integrating data of CAPS, Georgia's Pre-K, Head Start and Babies Can't Wait. Further implementation waits future funding. A parent portal for all state agencies serving the 0-5 population will launch this spring.

## 6. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Bobby Cagle gave a presentation on his activities. (See slides.) He announced a child care teacher, Gabriela Martinez, has received a Terri Lynne Lokoff National Child Care Teacher Award and is in the running for an award for child care teacher of the year. He commended Hows King for hiring and retaining a teacher of

such quality.

a. Recent Meetings & Events

The Commissioner reported visiting the Drew Charter School with a deputy at the Georgia Department of Education. He participated in a panel discussion for a United Way women's group meeting. He has presented at a Joint House and Senate Appropriations Meeting on the budget request. He also presented to the House Children and Youth Committee to garner support for Quality Rated.

b. Stakeholder Engagement

The Commissioner met with legislators in Whitfield and Dodge counties to tour Pre-K classrooms and discuss Pre-K funding options. He hosted five separate webinars to various stakeholder groups; board member participation in these was appreciated. He will give board members advance notice when he is scheduled to present in a legislative hearing and extend an opportunity for them to attend.

c. Media Activity

The Commissioner stated the agency has received a large number of open records requests. This is a labor intensive process, which includes reviewing potential records to be released to ensure compliance with confidentiality laws. The agency continues to be as transparent as possible. A preliminary finding from an ongoing study by a researcher at Emory University is that children are one third less likely to suffer a fatality in state-regulated child care as they are at home. The agency's experimentation with compliance determination has also received media attention.

This system publicized by the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) is a system designed for internal agency use is not useful to the public. The compliance determination process is currently undergoing a comprehensive review. Ongoing noncompliance is a concern the agency will address with the goal of moving providers toward compliance. Noncompliant programs are a small percentage of all providers. The agency is expecting more AJC articles on its work. The Commissioner is taping all media interviews and is willing to share with the board.

The agency will provide support and coaching to any board members who would like to be interviewed by the media. Mr. Morgan asked if legislators are made aware of the true nature of the agency's policies in light of sensational media reports. The Commissioner responded he has been in continual contact with key legislators.

d. Early Learning Challenge Grant Projects

The Commissioner stated 11 projects were outlined in the state's grant application. The agency believes it can begin implementation of six of these projects with current resources, as detailed on the agency's website. He stated the proposed federal budget does contain some funding to states for early learning projects and that another grant round is also possible. If so, the agency would be prepared to submit an application. Vice Chair Purcell expressed her regrets that the agency did not receive the grant.

## **7. Committee Meetings/Lunch**

### **8. Public Hearing, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At 1:00 p.m. a public hearing was held before the board. A summary of comments follows.

1. Paula Charles, Suzuki School, expressed appreciation for the agency's support, which has helped her school. She commended the agency for pursuing a compliance review. She expressed concern over the mixed messaging providers receive when consultant turnover occurs. She stated the vast majority of center owners are trying to survive and do not always know how to resolve mixed messages. She asked the agency to communicate rule guidelines in an unambiguous method.

2. Carolyn Salvador, Georgia Child Care Association, was concerned the rule changes to summer camps are not finalized sooner, but expressed appreciation for the agency listening to provider concerns. She recommended the agency coordinate with the Georgia Department of Education to determine communication strategy pertaining to the exemption rule changes, which state exempt programs can no longer advertise as afterschool programs.

3. Bill Smith, Dojo American Karate School, expressed concern over lobbying efforts against their summer camp and after school programs. He stated the Dojo schools teach karate and do not try to be a day care program. These schools also comply with the department exemption process and maintain a safe environment. He emphasized how important safety is to the success of the karate schools. He commended the board for the direction it has taken to balance competing interests. He stated the exemptions work, and Georgia citizens want choices.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### **a. Budget & Finance**

Ms. Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the FY2012 budget, which is on target for the remaining fiscal year.

### **b. Programs & Rules Committee**

Mr. Morgan reported for the Programs & Rules Committee. The committee discussed the day camp rule revision process and the transition process for the CAPS program transferring to the agency. The committee also looked at some preliminary results from the summer Pre-K program. Results were very positive.

The Commissioner explained 13 staff members, who administer CAPS within the DHS, will transfer to the agency; a determination of how many regional staff will transfer to the agency in local Division of Family and Children Services offices will be determined through an allocation process.

### **c. Ethics**

Ms. Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee discussed what board member contact information is made available to the public and the need to keep this current. Ms. Talton inquired into board member reporting requirements. Ms. Lackey responded it is an annual online certification; this



information will be sent to board members.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion made by: Mr. Victor Morgan

Motion seconded by: Ms. Susan Harper

Voting

Unanimously Approved

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary

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

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**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting  
5/17/2012 9:00:00 AM**Twin Tower - East Tower, 8th Floor, Hickory  
Room2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA  
30334

Bobby D. Cagle, Commissioner

## AGENDA

**Attendees - voting members**

Dr. Luann Purcell	Board Vice Chair, District 8
Ms. Carlene Talton	Board Member, District 5
Dr. Carolyn Ormsby	Board Chair, District 4
Ms. Susan Harper	Board Member, District 2
Mr. Phil Davis	Board Member, District 7
Ms. Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10
Mr. Victor Morgan	Board Secretary, District 11
Ms. Kay Ford	Board Member, District 12

**Attendees - other**

Susan Adams	Assistance Commissioner of Pre-K
Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Carol Hartman	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Kay Hellwig	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care
Ray Higgins	CFO
Sophal Lackey	Board Liaison
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ira Sudman	
Mark Waits	

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Carolyn Ormsby called the meeting to order. A video message from Commissioner Bobby Cagle welcoming attendees was shown in his absence.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Phil Davis moved to accept the agenda for the day. Kay Ford seconded. The agenda was unanimously accepted. Carlene Talton moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012, meeting of the board. Victor Morgan seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

- a. \*Approve agenda for 5/17/12 meeting
- b. \*Approve minutes from 2/16/12 board meeting

**3. Inspiration**

Carolyn Ormsby shared an inspirational story about visiting Harlem County, Kentucky, one of the poorest counties in the United States. She reiterated the need for education to offer the opportunity for a better life.

Dr. Ormsby recognized Bright from the Start recipients of the Faithful Service Award for 30 years of service to Deborah Toney and Kathleen Jayson; for 25 years of service to Margie Landers.

#### **4. Board Strategic Plan**

Dr. Ormsby updated progress toward meeting the goals of the board strategy map. She congratulated the board for attending 21 constituent events and activities. Board meeting attendance is averaging 80%. Seventy-eight percent of board members attended two or more department events.

The board reviewed the strategy map objectives, targets, measures, and initiatives. (See slides.) Sophal Lackey clarified that board members need to self-report attendance at events. Luann Purcell moved to approve the strategic plan, with the understanding that the plan may need to be revised based on revisions to the department plan and on the results of board member assessments. Victor Morgan seconded. The strategic plan was unanimously approved.

#### **5. Board Member Updates**

No board member updates to report.

#### **6. Bright from the Start Presentations**

##### **a. Child Care Services Update**

Kay Hellwig presented updates on Child Care Services (CCS). (See slides.) She reported that Dr. John Carter of Emory University is studying fatalities and injuries in child care in Georgia on behalf of the agency. The agency is also reviewing how it determines compliance; Dr. Richard Fiene of Pennsylvania State University is reviewing the current system to validate things the department is doing correctly and to recommend changes to improve the system where needed. In addition, the FPG Child Development Institute is reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's regulatory process in comparison with other states.

Ms. Hellwig reported on the new exemption rules effective January 30, 2012. The agency is beginning a review of all exempt programs on file. She presented a timeline for the process of reviewing day camp exemption rules. The rule to raise the lead teacher credential is scheduled to go into effect December 1, 2012. The agency has received numerous comments on the rule in the past two and a half years and has introduced new supports and options, including a new paraprofessional certificate for ages zero to three, a terminal Technical Certificate of Credit, and a waiver process. Kay Ford stated she has heard many comments in the field about the credential rules. Dr. Ormsby asked if there would be staff development to renew the certificate; Ms. Hellwig confirmed this.

Susan Harper asked how long a criminal record obtained as a minor follows someone and keeps them from entering the child care field; Ira Sudman responded that a mitigation process through the Office of State Administrative

Hearings exists that allows individuals affected to work with children as long as the crimes they committed were not violent.

Dr. Ormsby requested that the board be kept informed of upcoming public meetings.

b. Pre-K Update

Susan Adams presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She reported the agency had high participation in Georgia Reads Aloud Day on April 25, 2012. She stated the First Lady has committed to reading a book to children in every county of the state.

Ms. Adams presented an update on the Summer Transition Program, a six-week, targeted program for rising kindergarteners. The priority of the program is to serve children who did not benefit from a full year of Georgia's Pre-K Program or Head Start. She reviewed the child assessments used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program with analysis conducted by the FPG Child Development Institute.

Pre-K is also working on a longitudinal study to follow children who attended Georgia's Pre-K; the agency does not yet know whether Summer Transition Program participants can also be tracked through this study. Ms. Harper commented on the importance of language development in the early years and commended the inclusion of this focus in the summer program. Ms. Adams also reviewed the application process for selecting summer program sites. Board members inquired why in some targeted counties no one applied to offer the program particularly in southwest Georgia. Ms. Adams responded that applicants had to offer the program in current Georgia's Pre-K Program locations. Consultants are working with programs in these counties to identify reasons why existing Pre-K programs did not apply to offer the summer program in their county.

Victor Morgan commented that the data on the effectiveness of the program can become a selling point for serving more children in future summers.

c. Quality Initiatives Update

Carol Hartman presented an overview of the Georgia Infant Toddler Network. (See slides.) The network employs trainers who use the WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care. The child care resource and referral agencies and department specialists offer technical assistance to providers.

Ms. Hartman reported numbers of conference and training participants. She previewed the soon-to-launch Georgia Program for Infant and Toddler Care website (<http://gainfanttoddlernetwork.com/>). Victor Morgan asked if the department's Infant Toddler Specialists work with providers primarily in a support capacity rather than a monitoring capacity; Ms. Hartman confirmed that

the specialists provide technical assistance support for participating programs.

d. Break

e. Finance, Nutrition, HR & Legislative Updates

Ray Higgins presented updates on the agency's finances, the nutrition program, and potential legislation impacting the work of the agency. (See slides.) He provided an update on year-to-date expenditures for fiscal year 2012. He reviewed the amended 2012 budget, which included slight enterprise-level adjustments. The legislature also made an adjustment to account for the agency's partnership with the Department of Public Health on the Children's First program. The proposed fiscal year 2013 budget includes the transfer of the subsidized Childcare and Parent Services program (CAPS) to the agency from the Department of Human Services, bringing with it a budget increase of approximately \$225 million. The Georgia's Pre-K Program funding provides for a ten-day increase in the school year. Work continues on the transition of CAPS, with personnel relocations scheduled for June. The agency will contract with the Department of Human Services for field services related to the program in particular family eligibility determination.

Mr. Higgins reported the number of meals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. He presented outreach plans for the Summer Food Service Program. He also stated the agency is revising its strategic plan.

He reviewed legislation affecting the agency: House Bill 845 would require child care providers to provide information on the flu vaccine.

f. Legal Update

Ira Sudman presented updates on the Legal Unit. (See slides.) He introduced new legal services officers Christie Bearden and Claire Michaud. He presented open meetings statute changes that would require state boards to keep minutes of executive sessions. These minutes will not be subject to open records requests but can be reviewed by a court to ensure executive sessions are being used appropriately. Another open meetings change bars board members from participating in a board meeting by teleconference more than twice per year without a documented medical condition preventing attendance.

g. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler presented updates on technology. (See slides.) The new licensing application (KOALA) will go live July 1 and is tightly integrated with the calendaring application introduced in the last year. The new application includes current functionality with additional features.

The State Advisory Council, appointed by the Governor, is completing a number of projects, including a statewide needs assessment; a health screening road map with the Department of Public Health; a review of staff qualifications and the higher education pipeline to produce early childhood professionals by Kennesaw State University; a population study of children ages zero to five by

Georgia State University; and a child care quality awareness campaign in partnership with the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS). In addition, the first phase of a unified data project will be completed by the fall.

## **7. Rules Review**

Dr. Bentley Ponder presented the agency's response to Governor Nathan Deal's executive order requiring state agencies to review their rules and regulations and identify any unnecessary burdens they cause for individuals and businesses. (See slides.) The agency's recommendations were due May 15, 2012 and will be released publicly once the agency receives the Governor's response. The agency engaged stakeholders in the process by asking them to identify any agency rules and regulations that are cumbersome, difficult to understand, regulated fairly, and important to the health and safety of children. While providers identified specific rules and regulations that needed additional clarity and consistency, overall results were positive.

## **8. Stakeholder Engagement**

Deidria Bolden presented the agency's advisory network launched in January 2012. (See slides.) Twelve committees have been formed to provide stakeholder and community input to the agency. The agency records the committee webinars and posts them on its website. A formal application process for the advisory network has been released for 2013.

## **9. Media Activity**

Reg Griffin presented updates on media activity related to the agency. (See slides.) He reviewed the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's series on child care programs and discussed the rationale behind the articles. He presented a summary of media placements for the agency in March and April. Placements featured the Quality Rated program, the Pre-K program's top National Institute for Early Education Research ranking, and Georgia Reads Aloud Day. He invited board members to recommend ways to engage local media.

## **10. Committee Meetings**

Committees met in separate rooms during lunch. All committee meetings were open to the public.

## **11. Public Hearing, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At 1:00 p.m. a public hearing was held before the board. No one signed up to speak.

## 12. Committee Reports

### a. Budget & Finance

Ms. Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the fiscal year 2012 budget, which is on target for the fiscal year, and the upcoming fiscal year 2013 budget.

### b. Programs & Rules Committee

Mr. Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed Georgia's Pre-K Program meeting all ten benchmarks of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), the return of ten instructional days to the Pre-K program, and the Quality Rated program. Ms. Harper commented that often local Pre-K programs bear the blame for funding decisions made at the state level. Ms. Hartman reported Quality Rated is up to 616 participants, nearly current system capacity. Three chains and one Head Start grantee have informed the agency that all their sites will participate. Ms. Harper asked if it is appropriate for her as a board member to contact programs and encourage their participation. Mr. Sudman replied there is no prohibition. Ms. Hartman stated board members should contact Sophal Lackey first to make sure the providers are eligible. Dr. Ponder reported on his and Dr. Laura Johns' participation in a multi-state consortium on evaluating a quality rating and improvement system. Ms. Adams summarized the NIEER report findings and differences between states in access and delivery of prekindergarten.

### c. Ethics

Ms. Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee discussed the open meetings law changes, teleconference rules, and board member attendance. They also discussed the numerous vacancies on the board and the impact of new congressional district lines on board member regions.

Board members were escorted on a tour of the department's new meeting room where the board will meet in the future.

A video from Ounce of Prevention on the importance of the first five years of life (*Change the First Five Years and You Change Everything*) was shown.

## 13. Adjournment

Chair Carolyn Ormsby reminded board members that the next meeting of the board will take place August 16, 2012. She expressed appreciation to board members and the agency leadership team. Luann Purcell motioned to adjourn. Phil Davis seconded. Dr. Ormsby adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary



**DECAL - Bright from the Start**

**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:19 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting  
8/16/2012 9:00:00 AM**

Twin Tower - East Tower, 8th Floor, Oak Room  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA  
30334

Bobby D. Cagle, Commissioner

**DRAFT AGENDA**

No Attendees

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Carolyn Ormsby called the meeting to order. She welcomed board members, Department of Early Care and Learning staff, and guests. Dr. Ormsby introduced new members of the board, Dawnn Henderson, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Kathy Howell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Susan Harper moved to accept the agenda for the day. Victor Morgan seconded. The agenda was unanimously accepted. Susan Harper moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012, meeting of the board. Luann Purcell seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

- a. \*Approve agenda for 8/16/12 meeting
- b. \*Approve minutes from 5/17/12 board meeting

**3. Board Strategic Plan**

Bentley Ponder reviewed board self-assessment results, the agency's strategy map, and the revised board strategic plan for fiscal year 2013. (See slides.) Self-assessment results showed some gains from the previous year, with most items rated "Good" or "Very Good." Items rated "Not Sure" will need more attention.

Dr. Ponder presented an overview of the objectives, targets, measures, and initiatives of the board strategy map, revised by the agency to align with changes to the agency strategy map. Carolyn Ormsby congratulated board members on their attendance not only at board meetings but also at agency events. She expressed appreciation to the agency for its communication efforts with the board.

- a. Vote on Revised Board Strategic Plan

Phil Davis moved to accept the changes to the board strategic plan for fiscal year 2013. Kathy Howell seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the board strategic plan.

#### 4. Board Member Updates

Carolyn Ormsby announced the birth of Sophal Lackey's daughter. Members of the board provided updates on their activities.

Kathy Howell stated the board orientation she received from Sophal Lackey enabled her to transition more easily into board member service. She expressed her willingness to act as an ambassador for the agency.

Dawnn Henderson stated that the board orientation was very informative and that she appreciated visiting the agency offices.

Susan Harper reported visiting three first days of school for Pre-K programs in Baker, Dougherty, and Lee counties. She stated she was amazed by the organizational skills of the teachers as they introduced many students to a school environment for the first time. She reported the one disappointment of her visits was hearing from programs that they do not have enough Pre-K slots.

Carolyn Ormsby reported visiting the first day of school at the City of Decatur's preschool center and Pre-K program. She recommended that all board members take the opportunity to visit early learning centers.

A photo of Janice Gallimore visiting a Pre-K program in Greene County was shown.

#### 5. Bright from the Start Presentations

##### a. Child Care Services Update

Child Care Services Update: Kay Hellwig presented updates on Child Care Services (CCS). (See slides.) The percentage of programs that are compliant, while still needing improvement, has steadily increased over the last few years. A research project by Richard Fiene of Pennsylvania State University is reviewing how the agency determines compliance. Initial results are positive from a study being conducted by John Carter of Emory University on injuries and fatalities in child care settings. The Commissioner reiterated that health and safety in child care environments is receiving increased attention and stricter enforcement from the agency. Ms. Hellwig stated the FPG Child Development Institute is reviewing the agency's regulatory process in comparison with other states; results are expected in the summer of 2013.

Ms. Hellwig reviewed the requirement for raised lead teacher credentials by December 2012. The agency is working with programs to support obtaining the credential, including a waiver process. Licensing consultants will develop a plan of action with programs who do not meet the requirement. Luann Purcell commented experience alone does not guarantee quality and that quality is the primary objective. Commissioner Cagle pointed out the economic downturn has made obtaining a higher credential more difficult, especially for teachers in a lower wage range. However, for the sake of increasing quality, the agency prefers to work with programs and institute a waiver process rather than do away with the rule. Programs will need to demonstrate a willingness to work toward meeting the credential requirement. Dawnn Henderson inquired if programs offer any bonuses to teachers for increased credentials; Ms. Hellwig responded some programs do, and the agency also administers scholarships and incentives programs to help teachers attain and reward teachers for attaining higher credentials.

Ms. Hellwig updated the board on the agency's review of day camp rules. The

agency has concluded these programs need a different set of rules from child care centers because of their uniqueness. The agency will continue to evaluate the best ways to address health and safety in day camp programs. The agency has commissioned a study of population estimates at the county and age level but not more specific demographics. Carolyn Ormsby pointed out the board has heard from people concerned about the safety of day camp environments; further study by the board has revealed that there is no quick fix for this issue. Dawnn Henderson expressed concern over liability for many of these programs and wondered if parents should sign a waiver. Commissioner Cagle stated the agency does not know how many day camps operate in the state and stated the agency's capacity to regulate these programs is limited with current resources. Victor Morgan stated the agency needs to seek more dollars to adequately follow up with this issue. Finding and communicating with these programs alone is a challenge.

b. Legal Update

Commissioner Bobby Cagle congratulated Ira Sudman on his promotion to Chief Legal Officer. Ira Sudman presented updates on the Legal Unit. (See slides.) He stated the legal unit is working to consolidate its rule chapters and eliminate redundancies. Some rules still reside with rule chapters used by the former Department of Human Resources and need to be moved over to the rule chapters used by DECAL. Mr. Sudman also stated a rule for future consideration will resolve a discrepancy on infant sleeping practices between the current rule and the latest recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Commissioner reported the leading cause of death in child care facilities is related to infant sleeping practices.

c. Pre-K Update

Susan Adams presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She reported current school year figures for the program. This year funding for 10 instructional days has been added back to the Pre-K school year from the 20 days that were cut the previous year. Phil Davis inquired whether there is a projected increase in state revenues to alleviate the agency's budget concerns; the Commissioner responded any increase in state revenues will be tied up in other obligations, but lottery sales have increased as well. Susan Harper inquired how legislation addresses the distribution of lottery dollars; the Commissioner responded that legislation does not prescribe the percentage of lottery dollars distributed to the HOPE and Pre-K programs; funding is determined by the Georgia General Assembly on an annual basis.

Ms. Adams reported on activities celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K Program. In addition, Georgia's Pre-K Week, sponsored by Voices for Georgia's Children, will take place the first week of October. Legislators and community leaders have been invited to visit Pre-K programs this week. The Governor will also visit a program.

Ms. Adams reported on the conclusion of the 2012 summer transition program.

Evaluation data will be available at a later date. Susan Harper reported the Dougherty County program had difficulty locating waiting list children for the program. Ms. Adams responded that, with the transfer of the administration of federal child care quality dollars to the agency, plans for the program can be finalized and disseminated sooner.

d. Quality Initiatives Update

Carol Hartman presented an update on Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) She reviewed the Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) program that subsidizes child care for low-income families. The program is funded by approximately \$255 million in federal dollars and a state match. Commissioner Cagle pointed out the transfer of these funds to the agency from the Department of Human Services was a tremendous effort. The Commissioner reported the CAPS program has been undergoing an audit from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, and there will be findings requiring a plan of improvement. Phil Davis inquired how payments are distributed and how dollars are accounted for. The Commissioner responded payments are sent to the provider chosen by the eligible family. A sample of attendance records are verified each month. Fraud prevention specialists are currently employed by the Department of Human Services with funding from the agency. Victor Morgan asked if providers charge the same rate for subsidy families as for other families. Ms. Hartman replied the rate for subsidy children is typically below the market rate. The subsidy payment usually does not cover the full cost of child care, and the family must pay the difference.

A video of the press event announcing the 700<sup>th</sup> participant in Quality Rated was shown. The agency has already exceeded its first year goal for participation in the program.

e. Break

f. Finance Update

Margie Landers presented updates on the agency's finances. (See slides.) She reviewed the state fiscal year 2012 year-end budget. There was a large amount of remaining funds in Georgia's Pre-K because of the loss of experienced, credentialed teachers, who are paid at a higher rate. Many experienced teachers left the program when their pay was reduced due to the decrease in the number of days in the Pre-K year. Luann Purcell asked if the reasons for this excess are understood by state budgeting officials so Pre-K funds are not reduced further. Susan Adams replied the agency is accounting for the high teacher turnover rate in the last year and asking for a return of the remaining 10 days in the following school year to restore teacher pay. The next Pre-K budget priorities, contingent on funding, will be returning the number of children in the classroom to 20 from 22, then restoring pay incentives for teachers. Ms. Landers reported the percentages of the agency's funding from federal and state sources have increased substantially for state fiscal year 2013 due to the transfer of CAPS program funding to the agency.

g. Nutrition Update

Louis Brienza presented updates on the nutrition program. (See slides.) He reported the number of meals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. There has been a drop in program enrollment that has reduced the number of meals served. Initial results from the 2012 Summer Food Service Program indicate an increase in the number of sites and in average daily attendance, but the agency is awaiting results from the portion of the program administered by the Georgia Department of Education. Phil Davis inquired into the reasons for the drop in enrollment. Mr. Brienza replied anecdotally it seems to be related to what is happening in the economy, with out-of-work parents watching their children at home rather than utilizing a child care program.

h. Technology Update

Craig Detweiler presented updates on technology. (See slides.) Additional functions for the child care licensing application were implemented in July, allowing consultants to schedule and track visits in a Windows application and allowing administrative staff to access database information through a web interface. Screenshots of these applications were displayed.

Mr. Detweiler reviewed agency development projects. Pre-K student assessment data is now being passed to the Georgia Department of Education for access by kindergarten teachers. Work continues on a unified data system linking child data across state programs. FPG Child Development Institute will be analyzing data from the licensing consultant calendaring application. The agency decided to plan for using notebook computers in the field rather than tablets or other technology because of the amount of typing involved on a licensing visit. The Commissioner commended Mr. Detweiler and his division for their tremendous development efforts.

Luann Purcell moved to amend the agenda to postpone the remaining agency updates until later in the day. Phil Davis seconded. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

i. Recent Survey Results

Bentley Ponder gave a presentation on recently conducted surveys of stakeholders, customers, and employees. (See slides.) The agency contracted with Georgia State University to conduct a survey of employees. A customer survey was also conducted by Georgia State University of providers regulated or overseen by the agency. The employee and customer surveys will be conducted every year. Phil Davis inquired if the agency has done any webcasts; the Commissioner replied the agency has used these with employees and stakeholder groups.

j. Media Activity Update

Reg Griffin presented updates on media activity related to the agency. (See slides.) He reported the agency had a positive meeting with staff of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He stated the agency would like to have similar meetings in other media markets of the state. He presented a summary of media

placements from May to July and displayed an article on Quality Rated in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and a news story on enforcement of child care transportation rules on WSB-TV. A staff newsletter is also being produced.

## **6. Commissioner's Updates**

Commissioner Bobby Cagle updated the board on his activities. (See slides.) He and Susan Adams traveled to China in June as guests of the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University, which sponsors Mandarin Chinese instruction in child care and Pre-K settings with funding from the Chinese government. The trip included visits to child care centers. Photos were presented from the trip. The Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University is one of the largest Confucius Institutes in the world and the only one serving preschool children. The Commissioner reported stakeholder advisory committees will continue to meet. A breakfast with the Business Community Advisory Committee is scheduled for September.

- a. China Trip
- b. Stakeholder Engagement

## **7. Committee Meetings**

Committee meetings were held in separate rooms over lunch. All committee meetings are open to the public.

## **8. Public Hearing, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At 1:00 p.m. a public hearing was held before the board. A summary of comments follows.

1. Pat Willis, Voices for Georgia's Children, commented on the need for the agency to be the leader in comprehensive action for children zero to five. The agency's focus on quality, including creating a demand for quality, is the key for improved child outcomes. Georgia's tax dollars must be invested in children and will see a return on the investment. Early childhood investments make sense for the economic and educational success of the state. She announced Voices for Georgia's Children is seeking to provide legislators a personal experience of quality programs by launching Georgia's Pre-K Week.
2. Kisha Clark, Voices for Georgia's Children, invited board members to participate in Georgia's Pre-K Week by joining a legislator on a visit to a Pre-K program. Informational packets were distributed to each board member. Board members may email Voices for Georgia's Children to make the arrangements.
3. Pat Minish, Georgia Association on Young Children, commented on the importance of Quality Rated for increasing the quality of care for birth to three-year-old children. The Strengthening Families protective factors provide an important framework for Quality Rated. She issued a reminder that national accreditation has an important role to play in quality improvement in the state. She asked the board to not neglect quality improvement through higher credentials and expressed concern about the alternate certificate program proposed by the agency in lieu of formal education.

## 9. Committee Reports

### a. Budget & Finance

Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the state fiscal year 2014 budget request, which includes a three percent reduction in state funds for state fiscal years 2013 and 2014. Margie Landers explained the proposed budget lowers the per diem amount for the board. In addition, twelve staff positions will be reviewed for functions that may be funded by federal funds instead of state funds. Phil Davis offered to forego the per diem amount. The Commissioner stated this motion will give the agency latitude to explore multiple options.

#### i. Vote on Budget Requests

Phil Davis moved to accept the state fiscal year 2014 budget request. Victor Morgan seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the budget request.

### b. Programs & Rules Committee

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed the proposal to consolidate agency rules, including the relocation of rule chapters, and recommended moving forward with this action.

Phil Davis moved to approve the proposal regarding rule consolidation. Carlene Talton seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the proposal regarding rule consolidation.

### c. Ethics

Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee had no updates to report.

## 10. Inspiration

Laura Johns shared an inspirational message based on the Masai people of East Africa, whose traditional greeting is "How are the children?" She stated this serves as a daily reminder to place the children above all else. She posed the question, what if we greeted each other each day by asking, "How are Georgia's children?"

## 11. Adjournment

Proposed dates for 2013 meetings of the board were distributed. Victor Morgan motioned to accept the 2013 board meeting calendar. Dawnn Henderson seconded. The 2013 meeting calendar was unanimously approved.

Chair Carolyn Ormsby reminded board members the next meeting of the board will take place November 15, 2012. Dr. Ormsby adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary



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

Printed : 7/23/2014 9:19 AM EST

**Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting  
11/15/2012 9:00:00 AM**Twin Tower - East Tower, 8th Floor, Oak Room  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, GA  
30334

Bobby D. Cagle, Commissioner

## AGENDA

**Attendees - voting members**

Ms. Kathy Howell	Board Member, District 3
Ms. Carlene Talton	Board Member, District 5
VACANT DISTRICT	Board Member, District 1
Ms. Susan Harper	Board Secretary, District 2
Mr. Phil Davis	Board Member, District 7
Ms. Dawnn Henderson	Board Member, District 6
VACANT DISTRICT	Board Member, District 9
Ms. Janice Gallimore	Board Member, District 10
Mr. Victor Morgan	Board Chair, District 11
Ms. Kay Ford	Board Member, District 12
Dr. Carolyn Ormsby	Board Chair, District 4

**Attendees - other**

Susan Adams	Assistance Commissioner of Pre-K
Mr. Bobby D Cagle	Commissioner
Craig Detweiler	CIO/COO
Cecelia Dorsey	Administrative Assistant
Carol Hartman	Assistant Commissioner for Programs
Kay Hellwig	Assistant Commissioner for Child Care
Ray Higgins	CFO
Rob O'Callaghan	Research & Evaluation Assistant
Ira Sudman	
Mark Waits	

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Carolyn Ormsby called the meeting to order and welcomed board members, Department of Early Care and Learning staff, and guests.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

- a. \*Approve agenda for 11/15/12 meeting

Victor Morgan moved to accept the agenda for the day. Kay Ford seconded. The agenda was unanimously accepted.

- b. \*Approve minutes from 8/16/12 board meeting

Victor Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2012, meeting of the board. Kay Ford seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3. Inspiration

Carolyn Ormsby gave an inspiration in honor of Veteran's Day. She reminded the board of the sacrifices military members make. Victor Morgan assisted Dr. Ormsby with a special reading of "The Pledge." Dr. Ormsby then led the board in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

### 4. Board Member Updates

Carolyn Ormsby recognized Janine Joseph for 30 years of service in state government.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities.

- Victor Morgan and Phil Davis reported visiting Scientific Games, printers of Georgia lottery tickets, with First Lady Sandra Deal and her staff as well as agency staff.
- Carlene Talton reported visiting Pre-K and adult education classrooms at the Frazer Center with the First Lady.
- Susan Harper reported visiting infant and toddler training conducted by DECAL staff in Lee County. She commented on the importance of language development for young children.
- Dawnn Henderson reported visiting two Pre-K locations in Woodstock. She was impressed by the inclusion class in the public site.
- Janice Gallimore reported visiting an elementary school in Greensboro. She commented the school was seeking to address the poor vocabulary of students.

### 5. Bright from the Start Presentations

#### a. Pre-K Update

**Pre-K Update:** Susan Adams presented updates on Pre-K. (See slides.) She presented board members with pins commemorating the 20th anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K Program. She reported on current enrollment figures. The program is working to bring the fill rate to as close to 100% as possible. The waiting list remains high. 75% of waiting list children are in the five largest metro counties. Dr. Ormsby asked if there are certain regions that have the greatest need for Pre-K slots. Ms. Adams responded that metro counties have high need simply because of the large population, but some smaller counties, such as Long County, also have high need because of their high waiting lists relative to the four-year-old population. She reported a study from Georgia State University will provide the agency with more up-to-date population projections for each county. Ms. Adams also reported lead teacher retention rates have improved from the previous year, while assistant teacher retention rates have not changed significantly. She introduced Laura Evans as the agency's new Standards Coordinator. Ms. Adams reported that children with special needs ages three to five are served by the Georgia Department of Education. In the Georgia's Pre-K inclusion model, Pre-K pays for the instructional day, and the school district pays for special education services for those children in the classroom who have an Individualized Education Plan. Dawnn Henderson commented that inclusion also benefits children without special needs by helping them learn tolerance and acceptance.

**Race to the Top Early Learning Initiative Update:** Bentley Ponder and SusaN Adams reported on findings from the early learning initiative included in

Georgia's Race to the Top grant. (See slides.) The initiative studies various professional development models based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). The evaluation is being conducted by the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A strength of the study is the random selection of teachers within the 26 participating school districts. High teacher turnover has posed a challenge to the initiative.

b. Legal Update

Ira Sudman presented updates on the Legal Unit. (See slides.) He explained the legal requirement for the agency to verify the lawful presence in the United States of anyone receiving a public benefit, which is defined to include a business license or registration. The agency will verify the lawful presence of all applicants for a child care license or registration before accepting their annual licensing fee.

c. Child Care Services Update

Kay Hellwig presented updates on Child Care Services (CCS). (See slides.) She presented the agency's timeline for issuing 2013 licenses, including the process for verifying lawful presence. She gave an update on the compliance determination study being completed by Richard Fiene. The final report is expected in the coming weeks, and the agency will issue some recommendations along with its release. Stakeholders will be contacted at that time for input. The Commissioner commented that the purpose of research commissioned by the agency is to improve services; if any study identifies a need for additional resources, this will be communicated to the Governor and the legislature.

Dr. Ormsby thanked Ms. Hellwig for her years of service; she will retire before the next board meeting.

d. Quality Initiatives Update

Carol Hartman presented an update on Quality Initiatives. (See slides.) She gave an overview of Quality Rated, the state's quality rating and improvement system. Over 1,000 programs serving over 75,000 children have applied to participate. Two family day care homes have completed the process and received a quality rating. She previewed the Quality Rated applicant website. Susan Harper commented that the high poverty in rural areas can be an obstacle to participation with many unable to afford internet access.

e. Break

f. Finance, Nutrition & Legislative Updates

Ray Higgins presented updates on the agency's finances, the nutrition program, and potential legislation impacting the agency. (See slides.) He reviewed year-to-date expenditures. The agency has been meeting with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget regarding next year's budget. He presented the number of meals served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. He stated the agency is currently in the review phase for

proposed legislation. Susan Harper inquired on who to contact regarding the approval of the additional ten days for the Pre-K year. Commissioner Bobby Cagle responded that the ten days will be in the Governor's recommendation, but it is worthwhile contacting legislators asking for their support. Kay Ford reported the additional days are at the top of the legislative wish list for her local chamber of commerce.

Mr. Higgins reported the agency's 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive financial audit with no findings and expressed his appreciation to his staff for this exceptional accomplishment. Dr. Ormsby called forward members of the Finance unit: Stanley Cooper, Shannen Grimes, Rhonda Gunn, Glenda Hambrick, Margie Landers, Kay McCorkle, Sharon McPherson, Angelita Ramanou, and Lisa Tolbert for recognition. (Finance unit members Aneshia Harris and Bart Ellington were not present.) A board resolution honoring their achievement was read by Susan Harper and presented to Margie Landers.

#### g. Media Update

Reg Griffin presented updates on media activity related to the agency. (See slides.) He reported on media placements from August to October with top stories including Georgia's Pre-K Week and the program's 20th anniversary; a forum on Georgia's Pre-K sponsored by the Atlanta Journal Constitution and PNC Bank; PNC Bank's \$200,000 contribution to Quality Rated; and two high-profile CCS investigations. Almost 150 elected officials visited programs during Pre-K week. A video segment of the Pre-K forum was shown.

#### h. Stakeholder Engagement Update

Deidria Bolden presented updates on stakeholder engagement activities. (See slides.) She reviewed the second round of 2012 stakeholder advisory group webinars. Fourteen advisory committees are planned for 2013.

### **6. Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Bobby Cagle updated the board on his activities. (See slides.) He reported that Laura Johns, Quality Initiatives Director, received the 2012 Jo Cato Award from the Georgia Association on Young Children. A video on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia's Pre-K Program, created for a session at the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and featuring Donna Lowry of 11Alive News (Atlanta), was shown. The Commissioner has been active in developing public-private partnerships supporting Quality Rated. Partners for Quality Rated include the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) and the Georgia Family Connection Partnership, and contributors include the Joseph E. Whitehead Foundation, PNC Bank, Cox Media Group, and Dole Food Company. Phil Davis commented on Stephanie Blank's powerful presentation at a Rotary Club meeting that emphasized the learning process of young children and the importance given to quality education by companies seeking to relocate.

### **7. Lunch/Committee Meetings**

### **8. Committee Reports (begin)**

a. Budget & Finance

Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed current year expenditures.

**9. Public Hearing, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At 1 p.m. a rulemaking public hearing was held before the board. Public hearing officer Debra Golymbieski presided. Ms. Golymbieski explained the public hearing process and opened the hearing for public comment. No one from the public commented. Ms. Golymbieski closed the public hearing.

**10. Committee Reports (continued)**

a. Programs & Rules Committee

Victor Morgan reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed the credential rule for child care teachers and directors, updated early learning standards, and the Pre-K longitudinal study. Kay Hellwig reported that the deadline for meeting the credential rule for child care teachers has been extended. Susan Adams reported on the new Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, which have been aligned with K-3 standards. The new standards will be released in February for public comment. Ms. Adams also reported on the Pre-K longitudinal study being conducted by FPG Child Development Institute. First year results are expected in the coming weeks. Mr. Morgan commented on the importance of having data to demonstrate the Pre-K program's effectiveness.

Dawn Henderson moved to consolidate rules by repealing rules in one rule chapter and adopting the same rules in a different rule chapter. Kathy Howell seconded. Rule changes were unanimously approved.

b. Ethics

Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee discussed proposed board bylaw amendments on open and public meetings to align with recent changes to state law on executive sessions and meeting minutes. Ira Sudman presented the proposed amendments. (See slides.) Only a specific set of topics may be discussed in executive session, and minutes must be kept of all topics discussed. These minutes are not open to the public but are subject to court inspection to ensure only appropriate topics are being discussed. Phil Davis moved to present the proposed bylaw changes to the secretary of the board. Kathy Howell seconded. Secretary Susan Harper accepted bylaw changes as presented. They will be presented for approval at the next board meeting.

**11. Special Pre-K Report**

Pat Willis, Executive Director of Voices for Georgia's Children, reported on Georgia's Pre-K Week. Two thirds of current Georgia state legislators have visited a Pre-K classroom in the last two years. Voices for Georgia's Children has also been pursuing community partnerships to increase its advocacy base during Pre-K week. Key leaders this year included the Governor, the First Lady, and the Lieutenant Governor.

Agency commissioners and three congressmen were also involved. For the coming year, the organization will seek to use Pre-K week to articulate the importance of what happens in the years before Pre-K. Ms. Willis extended her gratitude to the board for its support. Kathy Howell read a board resolution commending Voices for Georgia's Children.

## **12. Board Business**

Carolyn Ormsby announced her resignation from the board. As of January 1, her congressional district will combine with that of board member Phil Davis. She plans to retire and spend time travelling. She turned the meeting over to Victor Morgan as presiding board officer. Commissioner Bobby Cagle presented Dr. Ormsby with a commendation from the Governor for her years of service to the board and to education in Georgia. She was given a standing ovation.

Victor Morgan stated the board would need to elect a new chairperson. Susan Harper motioned to hold a board election. Phil Davis seconded. Commissioner Bobby Cagle presided over board elections.

Janice Gallimore nominated Victor Morgan for chair of the board. Kay Ford moved to close nominations. Phil Davis seconded. Motion to close nominations was unanimously approved. Victor Morgan was congratulated as the new chair of the Board of Early Care and Learning.

Victor Morgan announced that his election created a vacancy for board secretary. Carlene Talton nominated Susan Harper for board secretary. Kay Ford moved to close nominations. Phil Davis seconded. Motion to close nominations was unanimously approved. Susan Harper was congratulated as the new secretary of the Board of Early Care and Learning.

Victor Morgan presented proposed changes to 2013 board meeting dates, changing meetings from February 14 to February 21 and from November 14 to November 21 in order to meet consistently on the third Thursday. Kay Ford moved to accept the proposed meeting dates. Kathy Howell seconded. Meeting dates were unanimously approved.

Kay Ford announced the possibility of her board seat being eliminated due to congressional redistricting.

## **13. Adjournment**

Phil Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting of the board. Kay Ford seconded. Victor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary