



Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

February 18, 2016



Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

www.dec.state.ga.us

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve **2-18-16** agenda
- Approve **11-12-15** minutes



Inspiration

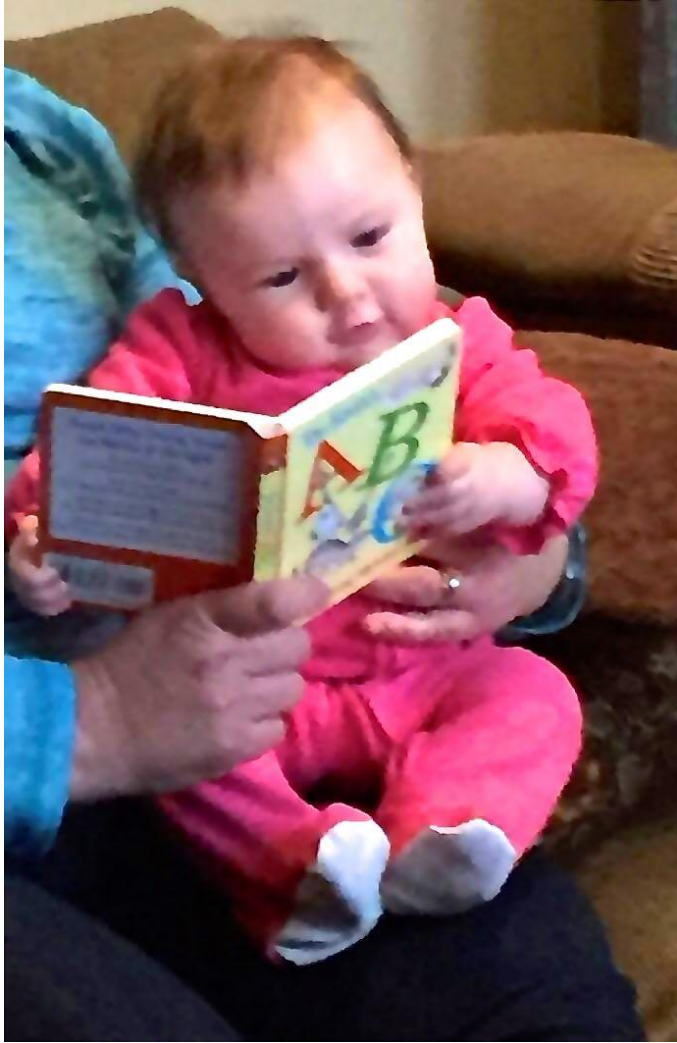
Susan Harper



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Building the Foundation...





Board Member Updates

Board members report on their recent DECAL-related activities in their districts.

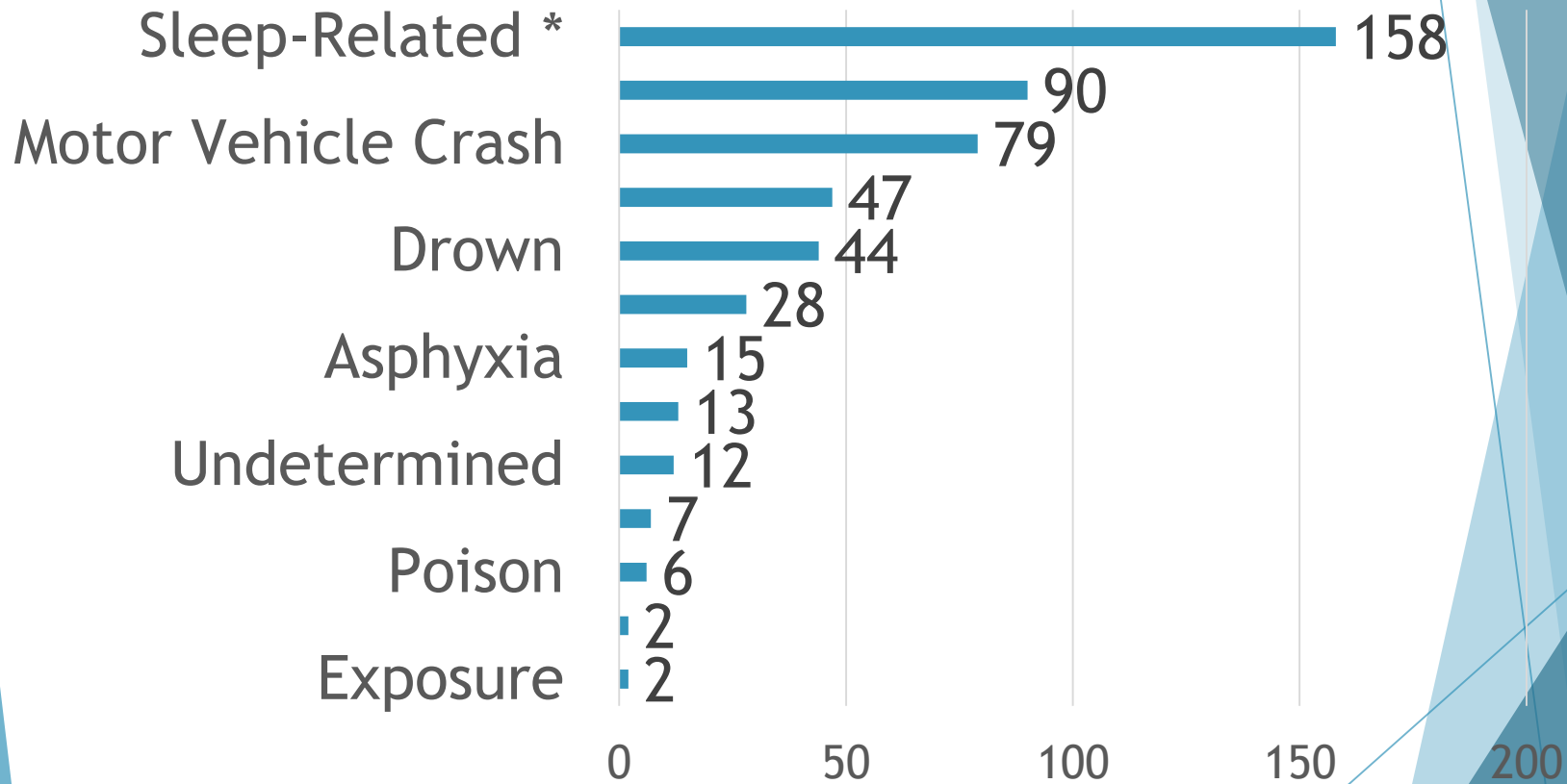


2014 CFR Annual Report Data Overview

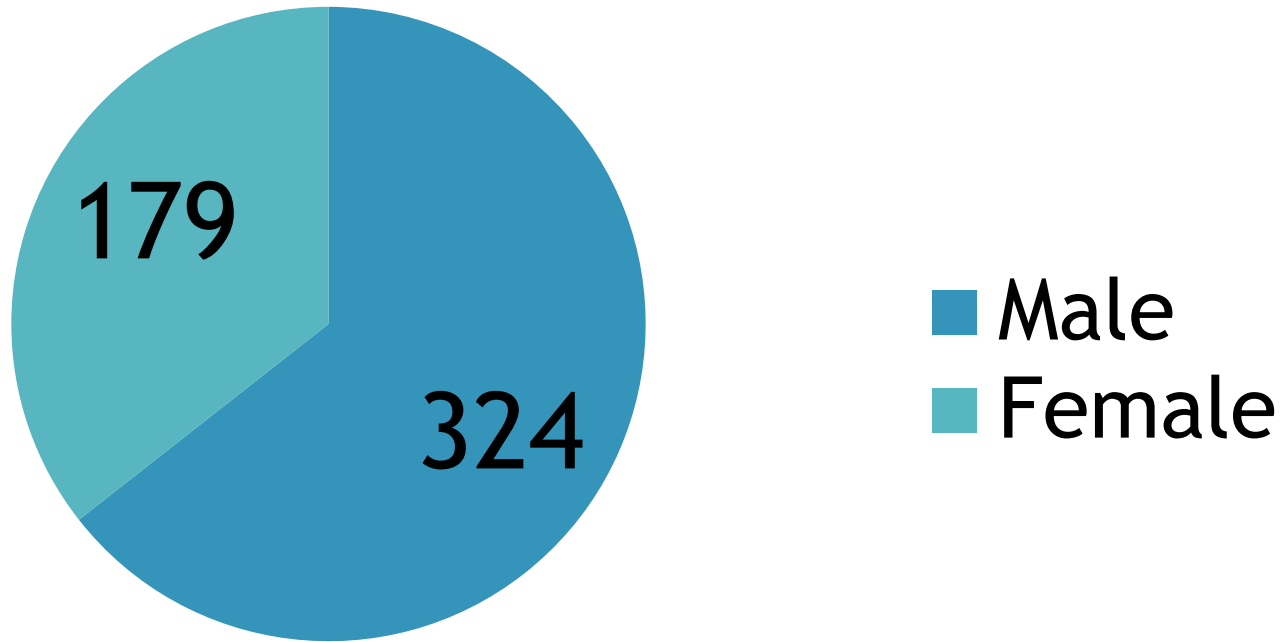


Trebor Randle
Special Agent In Charge, G.B.I.

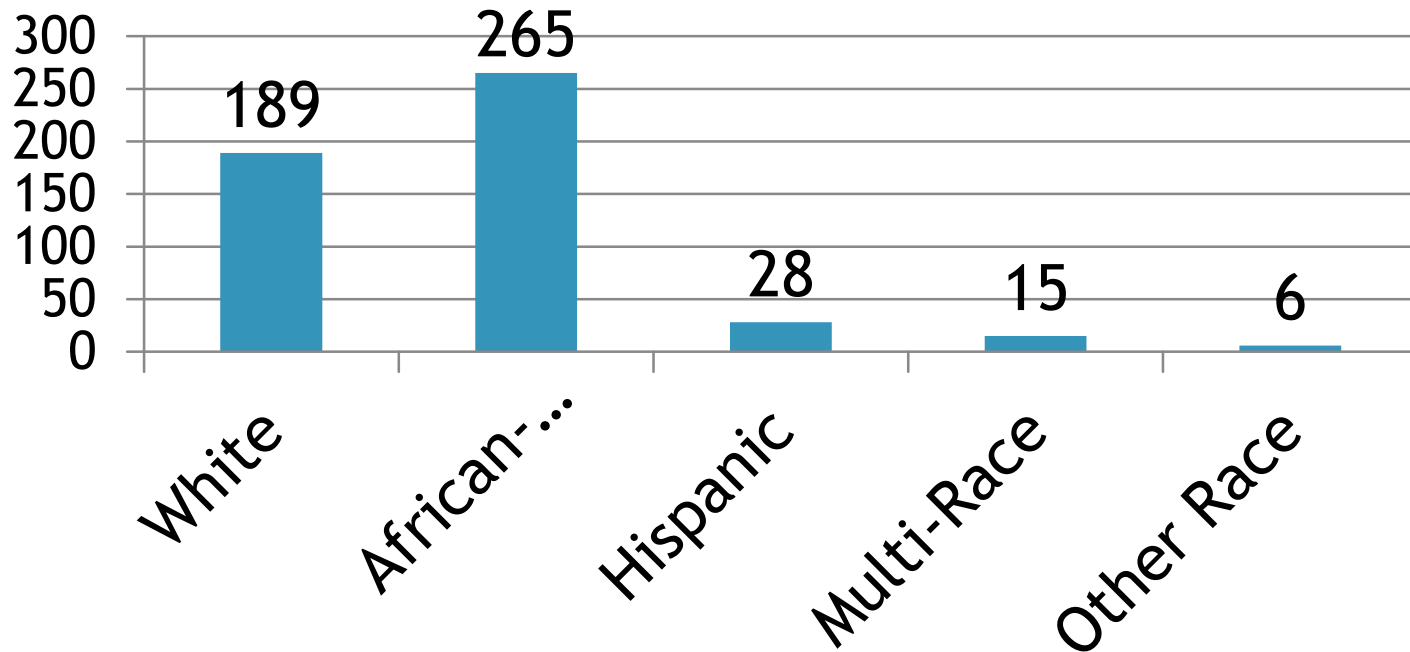
All Reviewed Child Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=503)



All Reviewed Deaths by Gender, GA, 2014 (N=503)



All Reviewed Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, GA, 2014 (N=503)



LEADING THREE CAUSES

- ▶ INFANT SLEEP-RELATED
- ▶ MEDICAL
- ▶ MOTOR VEHICLE-RELATED



Sleep-Related Infant Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=158)

- ▶ 96 Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (**SUID**) with prominent risk factors (bed sharing, prone, sleep items)
- ▶ 52 Asphyxia (e.g., suffocation, overlay, positional asphyxia)
- ▶ 8 SUID Medical (medical conditions present/medical cause and manner of death; sleep environmental factors could have contributed to the death)
- ▶ 2 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (**SIDS**) diagnosis of exclusion when no other risk factors are identified

Sleep-Related Infant Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=158)

- ▶ 61% were African-American; 31% were non-Hispanic Whites; 6% percent were Hispanic; and 2% were Multi-race
- ▶ Males accounted for 59% (93) 65 females
- ▶ 66% of the deaths were among infants less than four months old (N=158)
- ▶ 60% of the deaths occurred in an adult bed; 21% occurred in a crib or bassinette (N=158)
- ▶ When known, 52 infants were found on their back; 61 were on their stomach (N=153)
- ▶ When known, 65% of the deaths involved bed sharing (N=153)

Medical Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=90)

- ▶ Males accounted for 62% of all medical deaths (56); there were 34 female deaths
- ▶ African-American children accounted for 61% of all medical deaths (55) compared to a combined total of 35 White, Hispanic, Multi-race and Other race children
- ▶ Leading causes include:
 - ▶ Cardiovascular (21)
 - ▶ Pneumonia (14)
 - ▶ Asthma (9)
 - ▶ Neurological/Seizure Disorder (6)

Motor Vehicle-Related Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=79)

- ▶ Males comprised 63% of all reviewed MVC deaths (50)
- ▶ 33 African-American, 41 White, 4 Hispanic, 1 Other race
- ▶ Children ages 15 to 17 accounted for almost half (43%) of all reviewed MVC deaths
- ▶ 44% of all reviewed MVC deaths were passengers (35)
- ▶ There were 23 pedestrian deaths; 8 were ages 15-17; 7 were ages 1-4; and 8 were ages 5-14
- ▶ There were 16 driver deaths; 13 were ages 15-17; and 3 were ages 10-14

We owe it to them to do SOMETHING! INDIVIDUALLY & COLLECTIVELY



Talk with our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even STRANGERS about:

- ▶ Infant Safe Sleep
- ▶ Gun Safety
- ▶ Water Safety
- ▶ Fire Safety
- ▶ Motor Vehicle Safety

THANK YOU!!

Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Child Fatality Review Division
3121 Panthersville Rd.
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 270-8714 Office
www.gbi.ga.gov/cfr



Commissioner's Update

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner



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Governor's Budget Recommendations

- **FY 2017:** \$36.5M increase in lottery funds for Pre-K
 - New compensation model for Pre-K lead teachers
 - Increase salary for Pre-K assistant teachers
 - Increase funds for benefits for teachers
 - Additional funds for 3% increase for Pre-K lead and assistant teachers

Pre-K Teachers of the Year

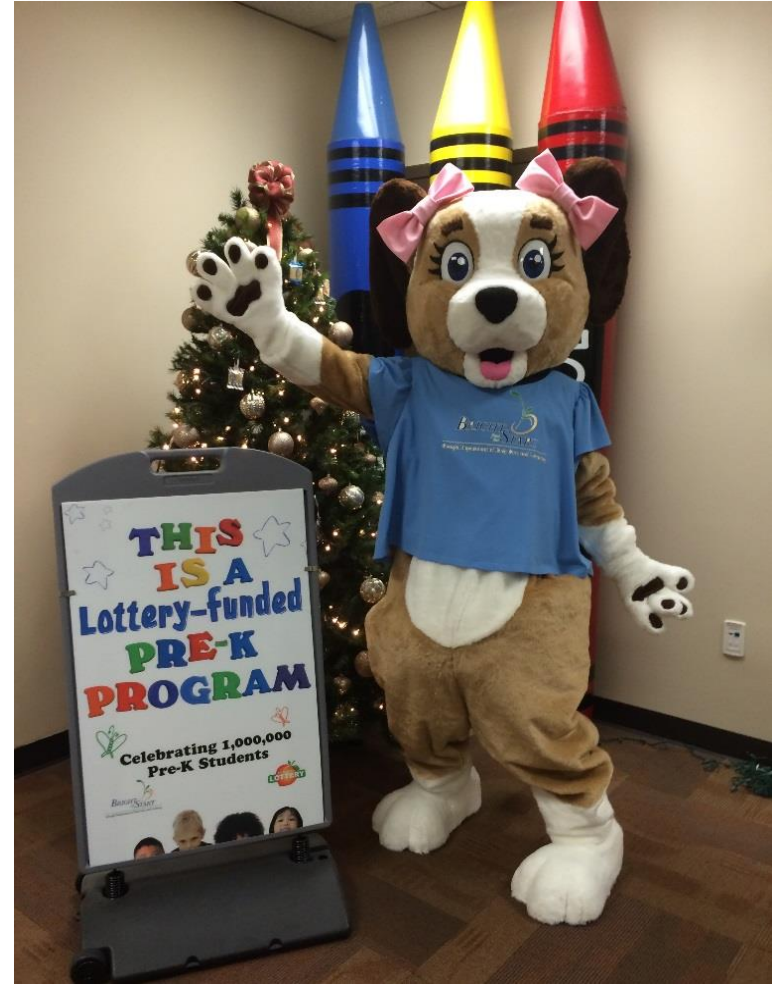
- Application period between Dec. 15, 2015-Jan. 29, 2016
- Received 49 applications (29 private; 20 local school systems)
- Review process spring/summer
- External reviewers
 - Technical College System of Georgia
 - GaDOE
 - United Way
 - Voices for Georgia's Children
 - Best Practices
- Eligible winners must be teaching in Georgia's Pre-K Program in 2017 school year

Pre-K Teachers of the Year *(continued)*

- **Winners announced fall 2016**
 - One teacher employed by private provider
 - One teacher employed by local school system
- **Winners**
 - Receive personal cash award
 - Receive cash for classroom
 - Attend award ceremony (tentatively w/First Lady)
 - Private tour of Governor's Mansion
 - Participate in visits to Pre-K classes with First Lady
 - Opportunities to speak to other Pre-K teachers
- **Awards funded by private philanthropic partner**



Exciting New Staff Member Welcome CALi!



CALi Contest

- Pre-K classes asked to submit photos inviting CALi to visit
- Winner determined by drawing
- Winning classroom will receive visit from CALi and Commissioner Jacobs







We would love to "Paws" our class

Mrs. Garcia's & Mrs. Gordon's Pre-K Class



Long County High School

to have Cali stop by and visit!



Sunshine House
EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Vet

HEY,
CALI
PRE-K 3

PLEASE
COME
VISIT
CENTER 55

FUTURE
VETS
AND
CALI ...

HELPING
OTHERS
WHO FEEL
"ruff" 🐾



Ms. Erica's Bulldogs
at Springfield Elementary
would ❤️ to meet you CALi
and commisioner Amy M Jacobs
we'll have a tail wagging good time!

CALi Contest Winner: White Oak Learning Academy Dawsonville, GA



Opportunities to Participate

- **Read Across Georgia**
 - Held in March; specific events TBD
- **Children's Day at the Capitol**
 - Sponsored by Voices for Georgia's Children
 - March 8, 2016
 - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (most activity around 11 a.m.)
 - State Capitol, South Wing
 - No official program but DECAL will have table

Questions & Comments from Board





Finance and Administration Update

Ray Higgins
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration



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Finance Update

FY 2016 Summary

Data as of Dec. 31	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
BY PROGRAMS				
Child Care Services	\$258,637,214	\$124,264,043	\$134,373,171	52%
Pre-K + (Head Start)	\$321,470,348	\$152,864,359	\$168,605,989	52%
Quality Initiatives	\$37,512,775	\$28,032,604	\$9,480,171	25%
Nutrition	\$138,000,000	\$75,790,511	\$62,209,489	45%
Total Expenses	\$755,620,337	\$380,951,517	\$374,668,820	50%

BY FUNDING SOURCE				
State General	\$55,527,513	\$11,244,042	\$44,283,471	80%
State Lottery	\$321,295,348	\$152,762,080	\$168,533,268	52%
Federal	\$378,637,476	\$216,874,572	\$161,762,904	43%
Other	\$160,000	\$70,823	\$89,177	56%
Total Funds	\$755,620,337	\$380,951,517	\$374,668,820	50%

* Includes encumbrances.

Legislative Update





System Reform Update

Kristin Bernhard
Deputy Commissioner for System Reform



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Quality Rated by the Numbers

Participation	Count	Percentage
Child Care Learning Center	1,688	53.59%
Family Child Care Learning Home	730	37.17%
Other	78	8.07%
Total	2,496	41.05%

Quality Rated by the Numbers

Rated	One Star	Two Star	Three Star	Total
Child Care Learning Center	224	297	95	616
Family Child Care Learning Home	68	105	69	242
Other	18	24	8	50
Total	310	426	172	908

Quality Rated Manual Changes

- Key changes include:
 - Stand alone school-age care programs are eligible to submit a Quality Rated portfolio.
 - For a standard to be marked as complete in the online Quality Rated portfolio, the child care program **must upload** evidence that the standard has been met.
 - Added information about the *Environment Rating Scale Institute (ERSI) Notes for Clarification* and the *Georgia Specific Additional Notes* that clarify indicators in the Environment Rating Scales.
- The current version of the *Quality Rated Program Manual* is available at www.qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us.

Quality Rated Marketing Campaign

Timeline of Next Steps





Head Start Update

Janice Haker
Head Start State Collaboration Director



Projects

● Attendance

- Response from 19 of 30 Head Start agencies
 - Eight programs decreased absenteeism (range from 2% to 27%)
 - Five EHS programs decreased (range from 4% to 16%)
- NHSA published blog on attendance project

● Toxic Stress

- Two pilot programs (McIntosh Trail, Easter Seals)
- Needs Assessment for staff in February
- Status of grant

National Head Start Association Conference

- NHTSA Conference

- Presented on longitudinal data systems
- Verification of FERPA regarding our procedures for compliance

- Foster Care

- Memo from Executive Director Cagle to DFCS staff regarding enrollment of children in foster care

Head Start Quality Rated

- 41% of all HS centers participating
 - 22% rated one star (increase of 6%)
 - 52% rated two stars (increase of 8%)
 - 26% rated three stars (decrease of 13%)

BREAK
(15 minutes)



Child Care Services Update

Kristie Lewis

Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services



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Overview

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan for Georgia FFY 2016-2018



CCDF History

- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) first authorized in 1990 under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act
- Amended and reauthorized in 1996 and in 2014
- Federal fiscal year 2014, CCDF provided \$5.3 billion to states, territories, and tribes.
 - Georgia received over \$193 million in fiscal year 2015.

Purposes Identified in 2014 Reauthorization

- Promote self-sufficiency for low income families
- Promote involvement by parents and families in the development of their children in child care settings
- Improve the overall quality of child care services and programs
- Increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high quality child care settings

Focus of 2014 Reauthorization

- “Historic re-envisioning” of the law that includes new requirements related to:
 - Health and safety standards
 - Eligibility policies
 - Quality improvement efforts
 - Information provided to families about child care and child development
 - Professional development
- Georgia already meets many of the new requirements.

State Plan Logistics

- Due on March 1, 2016
- Covers the period from 6/1/2016 - 9/30/2018
- Current draft is posted at:
 - <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/BftS/CCDFPlan.aspx>
- Public hearings held January 27-30, 2016
 - Public comments were received through February 5
 - Public comment period now closed

State Plan Organization

- State Plan organized into the following sections:
 - CCDF Leadership and Coordination
 - Family Engagement
 - Financial Assistance to Families
 - Equal Access to High Quality Child Care
 - Standards and Monitoring Processes around Health and Safety
 - Early Education Workforce
 - Continuous Quality Improvement
 - Grantee Accountability
- Following slides identify only items in each section of Georgia's plan that are different from the state's previous plan.

CCDF Leadership and Coordination

- Implement additional requirements around disaster preparedness for all child care programs that receive CCDF dollars
- Offer new disaster preparedness resources prepared by DECAL's Child Care Services division to all providers
- Expand collaborative efforts with appropriate federal, state, and local programs

Family Engagement

- Require child care programs to provide information on developmental screening services
- Provide additional information to the public about child care programs licensed by the state or receiving CCDF funds
- Provide additional information to the public about incidents resulting in serious injury, death, and child abuse in child care settings

Financial Assistance to Families

- Raise subsidy rates to the 50th percentile for all providers
- Increase the tiered bonus percentage to 5%, 10%, and 25% for one, two, and three star Quality Rated providers
- Increase income eligibility thresholds
- Reduce the family fee portion of care

Financial Assistance to Families *(continued)*

- Priority groups:
 - TANF applicants/recipients
 - Children in DFCS custody
 - Children with special needs
 - Children with Child Protective Services involvement
 - Minor parents
 - Grandparents raising grandchildren
 - Court ordered supervision cases
 - Pre-K students who need before or after school services
 - Victims of state or federally declared natural disasters
 - **Victims of domestic violence**
 - **Homeless populations**

Equal Access to High Quality Care

- Implement new payment and funding models
 - Offer grants to providers to serve a certain number of child care subsidy eligible children
 - Programs agree to meet higher standards of quality and thereby receive additional funds and supports
- Develop new research methodologies to:
 - Estimate the true cost of care
 - Determine underserved areas
 - Measure the level of access to high quality care for families receiving CCDF

Standards and Monitoring Processes around Health and Safety

- Require license-exempt programs that receive CCDF funds to:
 - Receive additional monitoring from DECAL
 - Submit more reports to DECAL to ensure accountability
 - Undergo the same criminal background checks as licensed providers
- Require increased training on key health and safety topics that must be completed within the first 90 days of hire
- Expand current background checks

Early Education Workforce

- Increase professional development offered to programs about meeting children's social and emotional needs
- Increase training offered to programs serving children with disabilities, dual language learners, and children who are homeless
- Pilot new funding models for infant and toddler classrooms
- Provide professional development to help program owners and directors strengthen their business practices

Continuous Quality Improvement

- Improve infant and toddler care by utilizing current infant toddler specialists to support programs in improving their Quality Rated star ratings
- Expand evaluation methods for infant and toddler supports

Grantee Accountability

- Enhance sub-recipient monitoring procedures
- Revise processes related to identifying overpayments based on the continuity of care approach articulated in reauthorization

Summary of Public Comments

- Received formal comments from many stakeholder organizations
- Commended DECAL's decisions to:
 - Increase income eligibility limits
 - Decrease co-payments for families
 - Increase subsidy payment rates
- Concerned about decrease in number of families served due to lack of additional funding
- Pleased with increased oversight of license-exempt programs

Upcoming Board Vote - May 12, 2016

- Granted permission to write/revise rules for the new Enforcement Compliance System at November meeting
- Proposed timeframe for enforcement /compliance rule revision process:
 - Post proposed rules April 2016
 - Hold 30-day public comment period from April through early May 2016
 - Conduct public hearing and board vote on new rules on May 12, 2016
- Proposed implementation date for enforcement/compliance rules: July 1, 2016



Georgia's Pre-K Program & Instructional Supports Update

Susan Adams

Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K & Instructional Supports



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Summer Transition Program Application Rising Kindergarten Model

- **March 7:** Application available in PANDA to existing Georgia's Pre- K providers
- **March 24:** 5 p.m. application submission deadline
- **March 28-April 8:** Application review process
 - Applications scored using a rubric
 - Applications reviewed by internal and external reviewers
- **April 18:** Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs
- **June 6-July 15:** Program implementation

Summer Transition Program Application Rising Pre-K Model

- **February**: Invitation to participate sent to identified potential providers
- **April 18**: Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs
- **June 6-July 15**: Program implementation

Georgia's Pre-K Application

- **March 28:** Application available
- **April 22:** Application submission date
- **May 16-June 15:**
 - New and expansion applications reviewed
 - Potential new and expansion classes identified
- **July 1, 2016:** Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs

Composed of three components:

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** *Tuition assistance and stipends for those pursuing ECE credentials or degrees*
Funded by Child Care and Development Fund
- **INCENTIVES:** *Up to 4 payments after obtaining an ECE credential or degree and having worked for the same employer for at least 12 months*
Funded by Child Care and Development Fund
- **AWARDS:** *One-time bonus after obtaining an ECE credential or degree*
Funded by Early Learning Challenge Grant

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Covers 80% of tuition and fees not covered by HOPE or Pell at public institutions
- Covers \$1,968 at private institutions
- Must pursue credential or degree in ECE or related field
- Must attend one of Georgia's technical colleges or a SACS accredited, HOPE eligible institution

INCENTIVES

- After one year of employment with an eligible provider, earn salary bonus
 - \$250 to \$1,250 per payment
- Level of bonus and number of payments depend upon credential or degree earned
 - CDA or Entry Level TCC: two payments
 - Higher credentials: four payments

AWARDS

- Level 1: Single payment of \$1,200 for attaining a CDA or TCC
- Level 2: Single payment of \$1,500 for attaining a TCD or associate's degree
- Level 3: Single payment of \$2,500 for attaining a bachelor's or master's degree
- Must be employed by eligible provider for at least six consecutive months

TOTALS FOR PREVIOUS AND CURRENT YEARS

	FY 2015 Totals		FY 2016 As of January 20	
	# of Unique Participants	Funds Awarded	# of Unique Participants	Funds Awarded
SCHOLARSHIPS	1,386	\$1,190,618	746	\$519,077
INCENTIVES	1,652	\$1,380,100	1,112	\$583,300
AWARDS	606	\$1,613,900	<i>AWARDS for FY 2016 was reopened on 2.1.2016</i>	



Nutrition Services Update

Falita Flowers
Nutrition Services Director



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FY 2016 Child Nutrition Program Reauthorization

- Recommended changes include:
 - New CACFP meal pattern requirements
 - Decrease in area eligibility threshold
 - Increase sponsor fee with family day care learning homes
 - Expand meal benefits
 - Additional funds for outreach and expansion initiatives
 - “Out of School-Time” Program



2016 CACFP Outreach Activities

- National CACFP Week
 - March 14-18, 2016
- Program Expansion
 - Afterschool Programs
 - Adult Care Facilities
 - Farmer's Markets



Successful Summer 2015

- 24% increase in meals served
 - 5.7 million
- 10% increase in daily participation
 - 101,000 children/eligible adults
- 9% increase in counties served
 - 150 counties



SFSP Outreach and Expansion Activities

- SFSP Summit
- Statewide Press Events
- Program Expansion:
 - Medical Facilities
 - Mobile Delivery Systems
 - Colleges and Universities



- Electronic System
 - Training registration
 - Application
 - Claims
 - Compliance reviews
 - Internal and external reporting features





Background Checks Update

Christie Monteilh Bearden
Legal Services, Criminal Records Unit Supervisor



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Background Checks Update – Numbers

- Since the law requiring all employees of the child care industry to have a national background check clearance was passed in 2014, DECAL has issued **57,431** determination letters
- Average turn-around time: **4** business days
- DECAL unit: expanded from **2** to **10** employees

Background Checks Update – Recent Legislative Changes

- Parents and grandparents no longer need fingerprint clearance to volunteer in the classroom
- Extends the portability period for Students-in-Training to two years
- Eliminates the notary requirement for records check applications
- Authorizes DECAL to run fingerprint-based background checks for all Head Start programs, even those not licensed through DECAL
- Registered Support Centers, such as universities and temp staffing agencies, can independently initiate the background check process

Background Checks Update – New Features

- **January 2016:** DECAL launched Phase III of the DECAL KOALA online portal project
 - Allows for online submission of applications and records check letter management for facilities
 - Over 1,400 applications submitted online in 2016
 - Decreases processing time from 4 to 2 days
 - Overwhelmingly positive feedback from providers

Lunch

(Pick up in Entry Area)

Committee Meetings

Programs – Hickory

Budget/Finance – Willow

System Reform – Cypress

(The public is welcome to attend/observe committee meetings but may not participate in the committee's discussion.)

Committee Reports

- Budget/Finance – Carlene Talton
- Programs – Sherron Murphy
- System Reform – Susan Harper

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

Public Comments

February 18, 2016

Remaining Board Meeting Dates 2016

May 12, 2016

August 18, 2016

November 10, 2016