

Board of Early Care and Learning

Meeting Summary

May 12, 2016

Attendees

Board Members: Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Phil Davis, Dawnn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Luann Purcell, Carlene Talton, Tangela Johnson, Sheri Hooper

Guests: *Melissa Johnson, Joe Perreault, Brian Lipton, Ellen Whitlock, Mindy Binderman, Wande Meadows*

Bright from the Start Staff: Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Christie Bearden, Brian Collin, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Kristie Lewis, Woody Dover, Shani Drake, Janice Haker, Carol Hartman, Sharon McPherson, Christi Moore, Meghan Pendergast, Bentley Ponder Rian Ringsrud, Laura Wagner, Mark Waits

The second meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2016 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the February 18, 2016, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Susan Harper.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Sheri Hooper, the newest board member from the Ninth Congressional District, introduced herself.
- Luann Purcell reported speaking at the Professional Family Child Care Home Alliance in Warner Robbins.
- Susan Harper reported attending the Blueprint for Change meeting conducted by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services in Albany.

Members of the executive staff provided updates on their program areas:

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented basic information about DECAL's strategic plan through 2017. She announced that Quality Rated has rated its 1,000th program, a 3-star family child care learning home. The director of the program, Lynne Manfredi/Petitt, accepted educational materials from DECAL and GEEARS.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures and gave a legislative update. He reported the passing of House Bill 905 into law. He mentioned that an extra 36.4 million dollars were provided in the FY2017 budget to increase teacher compensation by 3% for all teachers. He also reported on upcoming changes to the CAPS program.
- Rian Ringsrud, Director of Audits and Compliance, discussed the goals of the audits and compliance division. He reported that the Audits and Compliance division has identified 3.6 million dollars in improper payments since the unit's 2013 inception.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, showed the new Quality Rated PSA video that will be played across TV in four weeks ([click to view](#)). She updated the board on participation and ratings in Quality rated, and reviewed the Quality Rated subsidy grants.
- Reg Griffin, Chief Communications Officer, gave an overview of DECAL's recent media coverage. He showed the recent public service announcement featuring the Governor, the First Lady, and Commissioner Jacobs, called *Look Again*, which encourages parents to look again before leaving their child in a car ([click here to view](#)).
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, reported progress on monitoring exempt programs to determine if these programs are still operating within their exemptions. She mentioned that at the August board meeting, the board will be asked to act on additional rule revisions that need to be made to align with CCDF reauthorization.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports, reported progress on applications for Summer Transition Programs for Pre-K and Rising Kindergarteners and on the family engagement grants. She highlighted that six finalists have been chosen for the first Pre-K teacher of the year award.
- Bentley Ponder, Director of Research and Evaluation, gave background information on a research study on professional development with Pre-K teachers conducted as a part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. He reported the positive results from the board self-assessment survey.
- Shani Drake, Marketing and Outreach Manager, presented updates on county participation in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and identified the targeted counties for 2016. She discussed Georgia Atlas, the new nutrition service program that allows providers to apply to multiple nutrition services programs.

Board committees met during lunch.

Committee chairs presented their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. She reported that everything was great.
- Jerri Kropp reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. Dr. Kropp discussed the desire to take PBIS training statewide.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. She discussed the E3Z zones that have low level or lack of quality child care and a desire to increase opportunities for those areas.

A public hearing was convened giving the public an opportunity to comment on proposed rule changes/revisions. There were no public comments. Public hearing was then officially closed.

Victor Morgan introduced proposed rule changes for board approval.

- Kathy Howell motioned to approve changes to Rules Chapter 290-2-3-.03, 290-2-3-.07, 290-2-3-.15, 290-2-3-.15, and 290-2-3-.18. Phil Davis seconded. The board voted, and rule revisions were unanimously approved.

- Luann Purcell motioned to approve changes to Rules Chapter 591-1-1-.02, 591-1-1-.31, 591-1-1-.38, and to repeal rule 591-1-1.41 through 591-1-1.44. Dawnn Henderson seconded. The board voted, and rule revisions were unanimously approved.

Victor Morgan reminded the board that their next meeting will take place August 18, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.