

Board of Early Care and Learning  
Meeting Summary  
February 19, 2015

**Attendees**

**Board Members:** Victor Morgan, Kay Ford, Dawnn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Sherron Murphy, Carlene Talton

**Guests:** Lynn Manfredi/Petitt, Joe Perreault, William Willoughby

**Bright from the Start Staff:** Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Keith Bostick, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Ira Sudman, Sarah Beck, Micca Burris, Woody Dover, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Tamara Hall, Carol Hartman, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Bentley Ponder, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Pam Stevens, Robin Stevens, Laura Wagner, Mark Waits

The first meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2015 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the November 13, 2014, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Kay Ford.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Kay Ford reported visiting two Quality Rated centers in Savannah.
- Jerri Kropp reported Georgia Southern University's preschool was awarded three stars in Quality Rated.
- Victor Morgan reported attending the department's conference for three-star Quality Rated programs.

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

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented on House Bill 100, the *Read Across Georgia* campaign to be held during March sponsored by the First Lady's Children's Cabinet, and the Governor's Education Reform Commission that includes an Early Education Subcommittee chaired by the Commissioner. She recognized board member Sherron Murphy for earning Gwinnett Technical College's instructor of the year award.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures and potential legislation affecting the department.
- Keith Bostick, Deputy Commissioner for Programs, presented on the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and its impact on the department.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, presented on the department's review of voluntary federal child care standards, participation in peer-to-peer calls with other states, school-age standards embedded in the licensing rules, exemptions, provider self-service in the licensing data system, the license fee renewal process, and an analysis of data related to child care closures.
- Keith Bostick, Deputy Commissioner for Programs, presented on expanding the Summer Food Service Program, particularly in unserved counties, as well as on CAPS services and attrition due to funding restrictions.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K, presented results of the Pre-K professional development evaluation.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented on Head Start collaboration projects, participation of Head Start programs in Quality Rated, and Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant awards in Georgia.
- Carol Hartman, Director of Policy and System Reform, presented on the department's Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership project.
- Pam Stevens, Quality Rated Director, presented on Quality Rated participation, efforts to include special populations of child care programs, a review of bonus and incentive packages, the Quality Rated Inclusion designation, the launch of a peer support network, and work on a communication plan with Weber Shandwick.
- Laura Wagner, Early Education Empowerment Zone (E<sup>3</sup>Z) Director, presented on the purpose of the E<sup>3</sup>Zs, department staffing for the project, the launch of Birth to Eight Teams in the zones, partnerships with the Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to identify investors, and child care subsidy enhancements in the zones and home visiting expansion in the zones.

A time for public comment to the board was made available. Mr. Joe Perreault, Legislative Chair, Professional Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia requested the department use more family child care providers in Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships, include the Professional Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia in planning for Child Care and Development Fund reauthorization, and seek family child care input to better understand reasons for the high number of family child care closures.

Board committees met during lunch. All board committees gave their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed the fiscal year 2015 budget.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed the nutrition program summit in January, Pre-K professional development, and the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards toolkit.
- Dawnn Henderson reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed the Early Learning Challenge Annual Performance Report, E<sup>3</sup>Z activities, and development of the Kindergarten entry assessment.

Board Chair Victor Morgan read the section of the board bylaws dealing with election of board officers and announced that, based on the bylaws, a new slate of board officers will be elected at the next board meeting. He encouraged all board members to be present and to be thinking about who should serve as board chair, board vice-chair, and board secretary.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will be held on May 14, 2015.