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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Announces 2019-2020 Quality Rated Advisory Committee**

ATLANTA (December 10, 2018) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced members of the 2019-2020 Quality Rated Advisory Committee.

The committee members for 2019-2020 are:

1. DiAnne Coggins, Family Child Care Provider, College Park
2. Sharona Fountain, The Learning Station, Ellenwood
3. Brett Copeland, Central Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins
4. Tabitha Abney, Sheltering Arms, Atlanta
5. Jewell Moore, Lighthouse Early Start Academy, Vidalia
6. Caroline Wood, Eagle's Nest Children's Center, The Methodist Home for Children and Youth, Macon
7. Mollie Melvin, Newton County Community Partnership - Family Connection, Covington
8. Laurie Kennedy, Stepping Stone Montessori, Sugar Hill
9. Brian Dolan, Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia, Brunswick
10. Cynthia Turner, Coastal Plain Head Start, Valdosta
11. Megan Berryhill, Orchard Rise Child Enrichment Center, Cochran
12. Morgan Birch, Premier Academy, Inc. Minnie Howell Center, Atlanta
13. Nailah Taylor, Goddard Systems, Inc., Southeast Region
14. Sally Hardin, Childcare Network, McDonough
15. Noni Walton, ABC Training Academy, Ellenwood
16. Gigi Welch, Glad Tidings Assembly, Thomasville
17. Dayana Cross, Family Child Care Provider, Alpharetta
18. Katie Tracy, The Bradley Schools, Evans
19. Melody Nation, TenderCare Preschool, Greensboro
20. Yiet Knight, Universal Child Care and Learning Center, Augusta
21. Andrea Lambert, Little Indians Daycare Center, Inc., Donalsonville
22. Angela Price, Teachable Moment, Inc., LaGrange
23. Teresa Johnson, Enrichment Services Program, Inc., Columbus
24. Monica Layne, Schoolzin Schoolzout Christian Learning Center, Ringgold

25. Monica Griffin, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta
26. Claudia Wood, Legacy Academy, Suwanee
27. Annie Stidhum, Coastal Georgia Community Action Authority, Brunswick

Members of the Quality Rated Advisory Committee will begin serving their 18-month term in January 2019. The purpose of the committee is to provide direct feedback to DECAL about the Quality Rated program and process for child care programs, which will help enhance Quality Rated as a system and increase participation.

"We are eager to work with our new Quality Rated Advisory Committee members," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "This group will continue to support Quality Rated as we think through policies and procedures that work for providers, families, and community leaders throughout the state. We are thankful for their contributions as we strive to ensure that every child in Georgia, regardless of income or location, has access to high quality child care."

Georgia's Quality Rated child care providers are committed to going above and beyond state health and safety requirements to provide a high-quality experience to children and their families.

To find a high-quality, rated child care program in your area or to learn more about Quality Rated, visit www.QualityRated.org.

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

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.