

In the Know... Trainer Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

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Words from Christi

It's hard to believe June is already here, and it's time for the next edition of *In the Know*. I hope you enjoy reading this quarter's newsletter as much as I have. I appreciated learning more about our CCR&R Regions 1 and 5 and more about the work of our Head Start State Collaboration Director, Allison Setterlind. I'll start by thanking those of you who attended *It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer* in Tifton or Buford. I enjoyed meeting many of you in person for the first time and am looking forward to our next face-to-face event, which the Professional Learning Unit has already started planning. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, have a great summer while you continue doing the amazing work you do for Georgia's children.



It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer

It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer debuted at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center on May 2. Almost 50 early care and education trainers gathered to network with one another, receive DECAL updates, and learn more about topics of interest. The second event occurred on May 22, with approximately 80 trainers assembled in Buford at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center.

Each event offered plenary sessions on DECAL updates, an overview of the Georgia Professional Development System, and a World Café-style conversation about how to help teachers make meaningful changes to their practices. Three additional electives were available: an overview of professional learning communities and coaching, supporting dual language learners, and supporting children's social-emotional development.



The feedback on the events has been fantastic! 97% of those responding to the evaluation survey rated the event 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale in terms of their satisfaction with the event and its relevance for their work.

Spotlight on Georgia's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Child Care Resource and Referral of North Georgia, Region 1



Pictured left to right are representatives from the North E3Z Technical Assistance team: Melissa Keith; Andrea Cline, Manager of ECE Services; Pam Runkle, Quality Care for Children Executive Vice President; Gloria Calhoun, Director; Brittney Everett; and Tenicha Grissom.

For more than 35 years, Quality Care for Children (QCC) has worked to ensure Georgia's infants and young children are nurtured, educated, and reach their fullest potential. QCC houses the Child Care Resource and Referral of North Georgia (CCR&R) Region 1.

CCR&R Region 1 supports families and early care and education professionals across 27 counties in North Georgia. We are the boots on the ground, supporting DECAL's vision of increasing the number of Georgia's children and

families who have access to quality early care and education programs.

The grassroots efforts of our 19-member team are impressive. We employ a community-based team approach to providing individualized technical assistance, coaching, and support to help programs work toward a Quality Rated star rating. We meet programs where they are and provide culturally responsive assistance for every program. We also develop and facilitate training and professional learning opportunities to better equip the child care providers in the north region.

Child Care Resource and Referral of Southeast Georgia, Region 5

Savannah Technical College, an integral part of the community since it opened its doors in 1929, has been home to a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) since 2006. Currently, the CCR&R of Southeast Georgia serves thirty-four counties stretching from Augusta to the Florida border.

One special thing about Region 5 is our approach to staffing. We assign teams to specific geographical areas to form and maintain strong relationships with providers. This staffing approach ensures providers have contact with familiar faces at training and community events. The approach allows us to customize technical assistance to each area's unique needs. We also employ a specialized team approach in our Quality Rated (QR) process. Each program receives support from a portfolio expert and a classroom technical assistance expert. In addition, programs with active Quality Rated applications have access to our exclusive QR Club to receive free training.



In Region 5, we are proud of our work with community partners and projects, including:

- Chatham County's Early Learning College and Parent University
- Training partnerships with Georgia Southern University, AGC Training Center, Chatham Childcare Collaborative and other regional training conferences
- Collaborating with Quality Care for Children and the Georgia Alliance for Quality Child Care to bring Director-to-Director Networks to Region 5
- Introducing professional learning communities as an additional support for providers
- Focusing on improving the transfer of learning as a result of our training experiences

News You Can Use

Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College and State University



Ribbon cutting at Georgia College for the new Georgia Center for Early Education and Literacy. Shown here are DECAL's Jill O'Meara and Suzanne Harbin.

DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs has been appointed to a nine-member board for the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy, an education and training center for developing literacy skills to be housed at Georgia College and State University (GCSU). Created by Governor Nathan

Deal in March, the board will oversee the center, whose purpose is to train educators on teaching early language and literacy and thus improve early childhood education. Deal announced this initiative in January 2017 as part of the Amended Fiscal Year 2017 (AFY 2017) budget.

"Early language development and literacy are vitally important to ensuring successful educational opportunities for Georgia's youngest learners," said Deal. "The Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy in Milledgeville will work tirelessly to make sure our children and educators are equipped with the right tools and instruction to succeed. I am pleased that AFY 2017 budget allocated funds to bring this center's vision to fruition, and I look forward to working with the center and its governing board as they begin this great work."

The board is composed of leaders representing DECAL, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, the Georgia Public Library Service, GCSU, the Georgia Board of Education, providers of primary health care, and education advocacy organizations across the state.

What's Up at DECAL? Updates to Licensing Rules and Regulations

Child Care Services has updated the rules and regulations for Child Care Learning Centers and Family Child Care Learning Homes. The updates include renumbering of rules to support the new enforcement and compliance system, general clean-up of the licensing rules, and updates to core rule topics.

The changes do not impact the content or the intent of any rules. Many rules have multiple components that the changes separated to allow compliance to be assessed more fairly. The update consolidated rules that have lists of items or issues to be combined and counted as one rule. The revisions also eliminated spelling and grammatical errors and replaced outdated language.

Changes to core rules were made to better align center and family child care core rule categories. This allows Child Care Services to reevaluate each core rule category and confirm which core rules are most relevant to the impact of health and safety of children.

After a 30-day public comment period, the proposed rule changes were approved by the Board of Early Care and Learning at its May 11, 2017 meeting. The changes will be effective July 1, 2017. A new rule book for each facility type will be released in July. To access the updated rules and regulations, visit the following link: <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>

News You Can Use, continued

Greetings from the Head Start State Collaboration Office!

My name is Allison Setterlind and I joined DECAL in October 2016 as the Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Director. My role is federally funded by the Office of Head Start. The Head Start Act of 2007 states that the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) exists “to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children from birth to school entry and their families.” My work is framed by federal and regional priorities, such as child welfare, homelessness, child health and mental health, child care, disabilities, family engagement, professional learning, and early childhood systems. I also partner with the Georgia Head Start Association, so you may see me at state, regional, and national conferences and meetings to promote links among our Head Start programs.

My career in Head Start is rooted in training and technical assistance. For over 12 years, I worked as part of the Region IV Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Net-

work. I know how important your work is for the early care and education workforce in Georgia and deeply respect your role in my early childhood heart! Head Start has wonderful resources developed by our National Technical Assistance Centers housed on the Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center’s website: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>.



Allison Setterlind

I hope you will explore these resources and add them to your toolkit! I look forward to meeting you all in person someday soon. Thank you for all you do to support our children and families!

Allison.Setterlind@decalf.ga.gov

Happy 25th Birthday Pre-K!

Georgia’s Pre-K Program will celebrate its 25th anniversary during the 2017-2018 school year. Georgia’s Pre-K Program began as a pilot program serving 750 at-risk four-year-old children at 20 sites in 1992.

The program was opened to all four year olds regardless of family income in September 1995 and has since served over one million children in over 1,800 sites across the state, including local school systems, private settings, and blended Head Start/ Georgia’s Pre-K classrooms. Special activities are being planned to celebrate this major milestone.



Child Welfare Training Collaborative



CHILD WELFARE TRAINING COLLABORATIVE
A PROFESSIONAL *Excellence* PROGRAM



In partnership with
Georgia Division of Family
and Children Services

The Child Welfare Training Collaborative (CWTC) is a partnership between the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and the Georgia State University School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program. CWTC offers training and community engagement activities throughout the state. The program promotes collaboration, provides networking opportunities, and helps create a common under-

standing about issues that affect children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect. The trainings are offered free of charge and CEUs are available for many disciplines. For further information, please visit <http://cwtc.gsu.edu>. To register for classes, visit our calendar: <http://bit.ly/CWTCcalendar>, or contact us at cwtc@gsu.edu or 404-809-1892.

News You Can Use, continued

Get Georgia Reading



Two-thirds of Georgia's third graders do not read proficiently, which negatively affects our economy, our safety, and our health. In response, Georgia's leaders came together in 2013 to address reading proficiency, not only as an education issue, but as an urgent priority for all who care about children's health and wellbeing.

These leaders formed the *Get Georgia Reading Campaign* and developed an agenda to achieve the shared expectation that, by 2020, all children in Georgia will be on a path to reading proficiently by the end of third grade. The agenda consists of four research-based pillars: [Language Nutrition](#), [Access](#),

[Positive Learning Climate](#), and [Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness](#). Together these pillars define the conditions essential for children to become successful readers. This agenda is being advanced by a cross-sector [Campaign Cabinet](#) of statewide public/private organization leaders, including DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform Kristin Bernhard, and Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports Susan Adams.

Leaders across the state are applying the four-pillar framework to challenge conventional approaches and establish new partnerships that address underlying factors affecting children's ability to read. For example, DECAL uses the concept of Language Nutrition in our family engagement work and professional learning programs; positive

learning climate is reflected in the [Quality Rated](#) standards and in the work with Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) in early learning programs.

Additionally, the Early Education Empowerment Zones (E3Zs) allow DECAL to promote the four pillars locally, bringing together early childhood leaders in those communities to apply the pillars in the context of their local assets and needs. To learn more about the Campaign, visit

www.getgeorgiareading.org.

Georgia Association on Young Children

The Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) is a professional association for early childhood educators and caregivers of young children ages birth to age eight in Georgia. GAYC is the Georgia affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA). Throughout the year, we build the professional network in Georgia through a monthly newsletter, email listserv, professional learning trainings, and an annual conference.

The mission of GAYC is to encourage

and support healthy development in young children by working with others (1) to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood education, and (2) to improve the quality of programs for young children through learning opportunities for early childhood educators. Given this, GAYC is committed to increasing the overall standards for quality early care and education in Georgia. To find out more about the association or to become a member, visit <http://gayconline.org/>

We also represent early childhood professionals at state, regional, and

national meetings throughout the year to address the diverse needs of Georgia's children. Want to know what is going on around Georgia? Just ask us! Email your questions to: info@gaeyc.net



Getting to Know the Professional Learning Unit

In this issue, we'll introduce more of the members of DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. Get ready, though, because moving forward, we'll ask trainers to submit bios to include in this section. We look forward to everyone getting to know more about each other.

DECAL's Professional Learning Unit oversees the Georgia Professional Development System, Georgia Training and Trainer Approval, and the DECAL Scholars program. Other Professional Learning initiatives include developing training opportunities in the following areas: Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, Professional Learning Community Facilitation, Foundations of Coaching, and Supporting Dual Language Learners.



Quandra Collins is the Training Logistics Coordinator with DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. She has more than 10 years of experience in the public and private sectors. In her current role, Quandra manages many facets of meetings and events, including site selection, contract negotiation, budget management, creative aspects, housing management, and vendor arrangements. Before joining DECAL in 2015, she spent several years working for a non-profit. During her tenure there, she served in a variety of roles such as a lead trainer and a senior program director. She established strategic partnerships with community organizations and local government entities to implement youth and young adult programs. She was instrumental in organizing corporate volunteer events and planning non-profit fundraisers to help send inner-city teens to countries such as the Republic of Georgia, Israel, and South Africa. Quandra holds a BA in Communications with a minor in Spanish from Augusta State University and an MBA from South University.



Pamela Hall is the Workforce Development Specialist, supporting the PLU. Pamela has worked in early learning for more than ten years in various roles, beginning as a Montessori educator for children ages three to six years old. She transitioned to early learning program administration and began working for the Metro Atlanta YMCA as a program director for traditional, Georgia's Pre-K, and Head Start blended programs. To gain experience in coaching and mentoring early learning teachers, she accepted a position as project manager for the School of Education at Clark Atlanta University, where she focused on the teacher preparatory program (Curriculum & Instruction) and on aligning the program with new state and national programmatic standards. Before joining DECAL, Pamela worked for the Technical College System of Georgia as a Grants Coordinator, writing grants and developing corporate relationships to support student retention and program completion, in a focused effort to meet Georgia's needs for a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Pamela has a BA in English from the University of Georgia and an M.Ed. from the University of Phoenix in Adult Education and Training with a focus on eDesign Learning Technologies.



Pamela Barner is the Professional Development System Administrator in the PLU at DECAL where she serves as the project lead for the Georgia Professional Development System. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering Technology from Kennesaw State University, a Master's Degree in Post-Secondary Education – Instructional Technology from Troy State University, and plans to pursue a Doctorate in Instructional Technology at Keiser University. Before joining DECAL, Pamela worked for 18 years in the corporate sector as an IT professional, holding a variety of positions such as Six Sigma Project Manager, Senior Business Analyst, and Systems Analyst Manager.

She's spent the majority of her professional career serving business initiatives focused on web based applications, process improvements, instructional technology efforts, and web user training.

**BRIGHT FROM THE
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LEARNING**

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Upcoming Dates

October 5-6, 2017: **5th Georgia Farm to School Summit**, Augusta, Ga
<https://georgiaorganics.org/2017GAFarmtoSchoolSummit>

October 6-7 2017: **GAYC Conference**, Gwinnett Technical College, Alpharetta North
Fulton Campus www.gayconline.org

November 15-18, 2017: **NAEYC Annual Conference**, Atlanta, GA www.naeyc.org

The **Board of Early Care and Learning** meets quarterly to support DECAL's mission and vision and help guide the department's work. Board meetings, which are open to the public, begin at 9:00 AM. For more information, visit <http://www.decals.ga.gov/BftS/BoardOfEarlyCareAndLearning.aspx>.

2017 Board Meeting Schedule:

3rd Quarter: August 17, 2017

4th Quarter: November 16, 2017

