

Board of Early Care and Learning
Meeting Summary
May 22, 2014

Attendees

Board Members: Victor Morgan, Luann Purcell, Susan Harper, Janice Gallimore, Dawnn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Tammy Lenkeit, Judy Neal, Carlene Talton

Guests: *Patty Bentley, Kellen Carr, Melissa Johnson, Kerri Wilson*

Bright from the Start Staff: Commissioner Bobby Cagle, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Keith Bostick, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Carol Hartman, Ray Higgins, Ira Sudman, Dee Bolden, Shannon Carroll, Melissa Davis, Woody Dover, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Zara Handsford, Randy Hudgins, Margie Landers, Sharon McPherson, Rob O’Callaghan, Rhonda Parker, Donna Pettigrew-Jackson, Bentley Ponder, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Robin Stevens, Mark Waits, Liz Young

The second meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2014 opened with the approval of the day’s agenda and the February 20, 2014, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Dawnn Henderson.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Susan Harper and Dawnn Henderson reported joining a department webinar in March on the results of Phase Two of the Pre-K evaluation study.

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

- Commissioner Bobby Cagle presented overviews of the recent customer service survey and employee survey, the department’s All Staff Meeting, leadership responses to staff input, and the upcoming study of the economic impact of the child care industry in Georgia. He also introduced the “Look Again” campaign to raise awareness about making sure no child is ever left alone in a vehicle.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures.
- Robin Stevens, Human Resources Director, presented on the department’s workforce demographics and trainings offered to staff.
- Keith Bostick, Deputy Commissioner for Programs, presented data on families and providers in the CAPS child care subsidy program.
- Dee Bolden, Child Care Services Program Operations Director, presented on child care services activities, the ongoing project to analyze exempt programs, and findings from the 2013 exemption data collection.
- Ira Sudman, Chief Legal Officer, presented on statewide compliance with new criminal records check requirements and steps taken to reduce processing time.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K, presented on the summer transition programs for rising kindergartners and rising pre-kindergartners, including findings from the 2013 evaluations and preparation for the 2014 programs.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented on the collaboration office’s annual needs assessment survey of Head Start grantees and the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships grant opportunity.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented on the department’s proposed Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership grant, key timelines and milestones for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (ELC) grant implementation, and the process for identifying Early Education Empowerment Zones for targeted investment under the ELC grant.
- Bentley Ponder, Research and Evaluation Director, presented on the department’s strategic plan, including links with the Governor’s strategic goals, results of staff feedback, alignment with the ELC, and the department’s strategy map.

A time for public comment to the board was made available to the public. No one from the public requested time to comment.

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 2014 budget. A board resolution was presented to Financial Services Director Margie Landers for her years of service.
- Jerri Kropp reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed Quality Rated participation, the possibility of the Department of Defense recognizing Quality Rated as an accreditation, Georgia’s Pre-K Program application and funding process, the Summer Transition Program, monitoring of licensed centers and homes, and the new technical assistance unit in Child Care Services.
- Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee discussed board bylaw changes. The board voted and unanimously accepted bylaw recommendations to be voted on for adoption at the next board meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place August 21, 2014.