

Board of Early Care and Learning

Meeting Summary

August 21, 2014

Attendees

Board Members: Victor Morgan, Luann Purcell, Susan Harper, Phil Davis, Janice Gallimore, Tangel Johnson, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Tammy Lenkeit, Sherron Murphy, Judy Neal

Guests: *Suzy McDonald, Carolyn Salvador, Melissa Johnson, Beverly Andrews*

Bright from the Start Staff: Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Dee Bolden, Keith Bostick, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Carol Hartman, Ray Higgins, Laura Johns, Pam Stevens, Ira Sudman, Sarah Beck, Falita Flowers, Nadine Hollis, Earlene Huston, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Bentley Ponder, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Judy Steigele, Robin Stevens, Mark Waits

The third meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2014 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the May 22, 2014, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Dr. Jerri Kropp.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Susan Harper, Jerri Kropp, and Tangel Johnson all reported on attending an Early Education Empowerment Zone visit in their communities. Judy Neal visited Summer Food Service Program sites throughout her district. Susan Harper also attended a Core Rules training in Albany.

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

- Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs thanked Earlene Huston, Sandra Kelly, and Judy Steigle for their combined 94 years of service to the state of Georgia and congratulated them on their retirement. She provided updates to the private fundraising efforts underway for Quality Rated, and gave an overview of the organization changes and realignment at DECAL.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures and Summer Food Service Program data.
- Keith Bostick, Deputy Commissioner for Programs, introduced Suezette McDonald to present on how she makes health and nutrition fun for children at her family day care home.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Series, explained the organization changes to her division and reported on child care services compliance data and the progress of CCS workgroups and task forces in the agency.
- Dee Bolden, Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs and Administration, presented on the organization changes in her division, updates from the federal level on new rules for the Child Care and Development Funds, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and Childcare and Parent Services data.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Support, presented on the organization changes in her division, progress with supporting the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, DECAL's partnership with the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) to support dual language learners, Pre-K Week from October 6-10, and Pre-K's Summer Transition programs.
- Bentley Ponder, Director of Research and Policy Analysis, presented on results from the evaluation of the Pre-K Summer Transition Programs and the upcoming Economic Impact Study.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented the organization changes in her division, gave an overview of Quality Rated, and reported on the agency's push to get more programs rated.
- Dr. Laura Johns, Early Education Empowerment Zone Director, presented on the selection process for the Early Education Empowerment Zones and reported that she would be making final recommendations for the four zones to the Commissioner on August 28th.
- Carol Hartman, Director of Policy and System Reform, reported that DECAL submitted an application for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant and will hear back on the status of the application in March of 2015.
- Craig Detweiler, Chief Information Officer, presented about the new board webpage on the DECAL website.
- Reg Griffin, Chief Communications Officer, presented about the progress of the Look Again campaign and on DECAL's social media reach.

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:

- Tammy Lenkeit reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee approved the amended FY2015 and proposed FY2016 budget. The board unanimously approved.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed Pre-K's Summer Transition Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and other federal programs.
- Susan Harper reported for the Ethics Committee. The committee recommended the approval of the bylaw changes. The board unanimously approved. The Ethics Committee will now deal with issues surrounding system reform.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place November 13, 2014.