

Board of Early Care and Learning

Meeting Summary

November 13, 2014

Attendees

Board Members: Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Kay Ford, Dawnn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Phil Davis, Tangela Johnson, Jerri Kropp, Tammy Lenkeit, Sherron Murphy, Judy Neal, Carlene Talton

Guests: *Channie Frazier (by telephone), Melissa Johnson, Nnenna Ogbu, Elizabeth Newcomb, Ellen Reynolds, Roy Robinson, Ann Rosenthal, William Willoughby*

DECAL Staff: Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Deidra Bolden, Keith Bostick, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Ira Sudman, Sarah Beck, Woody Dover, Shani Drake, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Tamara Hall, Carol Hartman, Laura Johns, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Lisa Rambhajan, Pam Stevens, Robin Stevens, Mark Waits, Liz Young

The fourth meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2014 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the August 21, 2014, board meeting minutes. Chair Victor Morgan gave the inspiration.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Kay Ford reported the Chatham County Chamber of Commerce has placed restoring Pre-K funding on its legislative agenda.
- Susan Harper reported attending Early Education Empowerment Zone (E³Z) signing ceremonies in Valdosta and Macon. In Macon, she visited two Quality Rated programs and had lunch with technical assistance providers.
- Dawnn Henderson reported visiting two preschools in October, including Ivy Hall Day School in Kennesaw where the First Lady read a story to the children.
- Judy Neal reported reading in some centers in October and working closely with her state representatives to secure their support for early learning.
- Jerri Kropp reported receiving a Quality Rated visit in Georgia Southern University's preschool.
- Sherron Murphy reported reading to two Pre-K classrooms.
- Victor Morgan reported attending a GEEARS early education summit in October featuring Georgia's Senate, School Superintendent, and gubernatorial candidates. He also reported attending the E³Z signing ceremony in Dalton and visiting a Pre-K program.

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

- Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented on Georgia's Pre-K Week, held in September and sponsored by Voices for Georgia's Children, during which the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, 30 state senators, and 83 state representatives visited a Pre-K program. She also introduced the state's Pre-K expansion grant application, E³Z signings, the Child Care Services Enforcement Task Force, Quality Rated fundraising, and a poll conducted by GEEARS demonstrating the strong support of Georgia voters for early learning programs...each of which would be elaborated on by other staff members.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures and the agency's legislative agenda for the upcoming session.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, presented on the collection of child care licensing fees, 2014 visits to exempt summer day camps, and the conclusion of the Enforcement Sanction Task Force.
- Keith Bostick, Deputy Commissioner for Programs, interviewed two parents, Channie Frazier of Statesboro and Roy Robinson of Atlanta, on the importance of high-quality child care programs for their families.
- Deidria Bolden, Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs and Administration, presented on meals served in Nutrition Services programs in fiscal year 2014, a public awareness campaign for these programs, and the state's implementation of a USDA *Farm 2 Preschool* grant. She also presented CAPS updates including policy changes, progress on transitioning CAPS eligibility from the Department of Human Services to DECAL, CAPS customer service strategies, and number of children served.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented on the history of Head Start in honor of its 50-year anniversary and current statistics on Head Start and Early Head Start in Georgia.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K, presented Pre-K enrollment data and details of the state's application for the federal preschool expansion grant.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented on Early Learning Challenge projects, including E³Z signing ceremonies and Quality Rated recruitment, marketing, and communication.

A time for public comment to the board was made available. 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 2015 budget and discussed the agency's legislative proposal regarding donations to the agency.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs Committee. The committee discussed next steps for enforcement sanctions, teacher professional development initiatives, federal reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, child care garden projects, and recruitment for nutrition programs.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed Early Learning Challenge projects including E³Z activities, Quality Rated expansion, Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards implementation, early educator credential awards, and development of a Kindergarten entry assessment.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place February 19, 2015.