

Board of Early Care and Learning

Meeting Summary

May 14, 2015

**Attendees**

**Board Members:**

Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Phil Davis, Kay Ford, Janice Gallimore, Dawnn Henderson, Tangela Johnson, Tammy Lenkeit, Sherron Murphy, Judy Neal, Carlene Talton

**Guests:**

*Melissa Fincher, Lynn Manfredi/Petitt, Jan Reyes, William Willoughby*

**Bright from the Start Staff:**

Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Deidria Bolden, Kristin Bernhard, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Kristie Lewis, Ira Sudman, Sarah Beck, Woody Dover, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Lisa Rambhajan, Stacey Schaff, Pam Stevens, Robin Stevens, Mark Waits, Liz Young

The second meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2015 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the February 19, 2015, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Sherron Murphy.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Kay Ford reported reading in three child care centers during the Read Across Georgia campaign.
- Susan Harper reported visiting a child care center in Albany and connecting the owner with the department. She also reported on her work on the educational component of the Georgia faith-based alliance.
- Dawnn Henderson reported reading in a Marietta Pre-K program.
- Janice Gallimore reported the charter school she helped start in Greene County was awarded a Blue Ribbon.
- Sherron Murphy reported reading at a three-star center in Duluth.
- Tangela Johnson reported reading to children in a local library and hearing the Commissioner speak at a Kiwanis Club meeting.

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

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented on the Early Childhood Education Subcommittee of the Governor's Education Reform Commission; special allotment funding for Georgia's Pre-K; the two awards recently won by the Nutrition Program: the Phoenix Award from the City of Atlanta and the Let's Move! Child Care Recognition Award; the department receiving a Georgia Telly award for its 2014 Look Again campaign; the forthcoming launch of the 2015 Look Again campaign; her attendance at the Georgia Head Start Association Spring Training; and a coming speaking engagement at the Georgia Lottery Corporation Sales Conference.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures; highlights of the fiscal year 2016 budget signed by the Governor; passage of the department's legislation House Bill 401; and other legislation of interest passed or considered by the Georgia General Assembly.
- Craig Detweiler, Chief Information Officer, presented on creating a data-driven culture with a review of technology solutions implemented in the Child Care Services data system.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, presented on the impact of House Bill 401; counts of licensed programs and visits conducted; license fee collection; licensed child care closures; the department's customer service survey; exemptions; and a newly developed enforcement and compliance system to be implemented July 1, 2016.
  - The board voted and unanimously granted authority to the department to draft new rules that comply with House Bill 401.
- Deidria Bolden, Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs and Administration, presented on participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program; public awareness events and outreach to unserved counties for nutrition programs; children and programs in Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS); and Early Learning Challenge subsidy projects related to CAPS.
- Stacey Schaff, Family Engagement Specialist, presented on the work of the Family Engagement Task Force.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K, presented on the 2015 Summer Transition Program for rising Kindergarten students and for rising Pre-K students as well as evaluation results of the 2014 summer program.

- Jan Reyes, Assessment Specialist at the Georgia Department of Education, presented on development of the Kindergarten Entry Profile as part of the Early Learning Challenge.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented on Early Learning Challenge projects including submission of the 2014 Annual Performance Report and Quality Rated access and availability.

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 and fiscal year 2016 budgets.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. The committee discussed outreach for the Summer Food Service Program, the Early Education Empowerment Zone grants and incentives for Quality Rated, and participation in SCHOLARSHIPS and INCENTIVES.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant, teacher training for pre-learning skills in language and math for children ages birth to three, and the Early Childhood Education Subcommittee’s exploration of ways to compensate low-paid teachers in early learning through tax credits for individuals and businesses.

Board elections were held. Victor Morgan was elected unanimously as board chair. Susan Harper was elected unanimously as board vice chair. Kay Ford was elected unanimously as board secretary.

A time for public comment to the board was made available. No public comments were made.

The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place on August 20, 2015.