

Board of Early Care and Learning

Meeting Summary

November 12, 2015

Attendees

Board Members:

Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Kay Ford, Janice Gallimore, Dawn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Tangela Johnson, Jerri Kropp, Sherron Murphy, Judy Neal, Carlene Talton

Guests:

Lisa Belliston, Shayla Elliot, Lynn Manfredi/Petitt, Bill Marlis, Emily Pelton, Joe Perreault, Angelique Thomas, William Willoughby, Jessica Woltjen, Karen Wylie

Bright from the Start Staff:

Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Kristie Lewis, Ira Sudman, Brian Collin, Woody Dover, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Carol Hartman, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Pam Stevens, Robin Stevens, Laura Wagner, Mark Waits, Bridget Walker, Liz Young

The fourth meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2015 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the August 20, 2015, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Judy Neal.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Susan Harper reported visiting sites in south Georgia during Pre-K Week and attending public policy forums in Macon and Atlanta on the economic impact of the Georgia child care industry.
- Kathy Howell reported reading in Pre-K classrooms in Carrollton and attending the economic impact forum in Macon.
- Dawn Henderson reported attending the economic impact forum.
- Sherron Murphy reported holding a read-a-thon with Gwinnett Tech students in their lab school during Pre-K week. She also reported hearing the Commissioner speak at a technical college consortium.
- Janice Gallimore reported attending the economic impact forum in Atlanta.
- Jerri Kropp reported that First Lady Sandra Deal visited the Georgia Southern University preschool.
- Judy Neal reported attending the economic impact forum in Atlanta.
- Tangela Johnson reported attending a meeting for female community leaders in connection with the Early Education Empowerment Zone in northwest Georgia.

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

- Reg Griffin, Chief Communications Officer, presented on Georgia's Pre-K Week, including visits to Pre-K sites with Governor Nathan Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, and Pete the Cat, employee roundtable meetings in Macon and Atlanta in October, news stories related to the department, and the department's social media presence.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, presented on the process of drafting a new state plan for the federal Child Care and Development Fund. She stated the department would need board authorization to draft new rules related to the 2014 reauthorization of CCDF as well as rules concerning enforcement and compliance.
 - The board voted unanimously to authorize DECAL staff to begin drafting proposed changes to rules.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, updated the board on Quality Rated participation and Quality Rated's transition to the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Third Edition (ECERS-3).
- Carol Hartman, Director of Policy and System Reform, presented on the current status of and next steps for the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented on Head Start projects, including an agreement with the Georgia Department of Education to serve more homeless families, piloting a tool related to toxic stress in childhood, and a career ladder for home visitors. She reported funded enrollment in Head Start in Georgia.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports, presented on findings from the Pre-K Longitudinal Study, development of the online Georgia Professional Development System, Workforce Knowledge and Competency revisions, a partnership with WIDA to support dual language learners, and visits with members of Congress, state legislators, and local school board members during Georgia's Pre-K Week.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year expenditures and changes within Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), including the lifting of county funding restrictions.

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented final recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Subcommittee of the Governor's Education Reform Commission, findings from the study of the economic impact of the child care industry, feedback from employee round table meetings held in October, and her personal vision for the department and its employees.

Board committees met during lunch.

A public hearing regarding proposed rule changes began at 1 p.m. facilitated by DECAL attorney, Christie Bearden. One member of the public offered comments related to changing the rules regarding Group Day Care Homes. Two other members of the public made comments related to Georgia's Pre-K Week and compliance rules for large child care centers. The public hearing went into recess until 1:55 p.m. while the board continued its business.

Committee chairs presented their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed current fiscal year expenditures and discussed potential changes in funding sources.
- Sherron Murphy reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. The committee discussed Inclusive School Week designated for December 7-11.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed the Quality Rated marketing and public awareness campaign, focus groups on attitudes toward early learning, tax incentives that will be presented as Early Childhood Education Subcommittee recommendations, and activities in the Early Education Empowerment Zones.

At 1:55 p.m. one additional member of the public offered comments about renaming Family Day Care Home to Family Child Care Learning Home. Ms. Bearden then adjourned the public hearing.

Board chair Victor Morgan then led the board through action on the following proposed rule changes.

- Proposed Repeal of Rules 290-2-1-.01 through 290-2-1-.21
- Proposed Amendment of Rules 290-2-3-.02 through 290-2-3-.16 & 290-2-3-.18 through 290-2-3-.21
- Proposed Amendment of Rules 591-1-1-.02 through 591-1-1-.23 & 591-1-1-.25 through 591-1-1-.38 & 591-1-1-.41 through 591-1-1-.44 & 591-1-1-.46
- Proposed Adoption of Rules 591-3-1-.01 through 591-3-1-.07

The rule changes were unanimously approved.

Board chair Victor Morgan reminded the board about meeting dates for 2016. The next meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning will take place February 18, 2016. The meeting was then adjourned.