

Board of Early Care and Learning
Meeting Summary
August 18, 2016

Attendees

- Board Members:** Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Phil Davis, Kay Ford, Kathy Howell, Jerri Kropp, Luann Purcell, Carlene Talton,
- Guests:** *Joseph Mole, Joe Perreault, Brian Lipton, Pam Runkle, Hanah Goldberg, Lynne Manfredi/Petitt, Paul Walker, Carolyn Salvador*
- Bright from the Start Staff:** Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Christie Bearden, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Kristie Lewis, Woody Dover, Shani Drake, Janice Haker, Carol Hartman, Sharon McPherson, Angela Melton, Meghan Dean, Bentley Ponder, Laura Wagner, Brandy Locchetta, Pam Runkel, Michelle Clark, Lindsey Urry, Mark Waits

The third meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2016 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the May 12, 2016, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Luann Purcell.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Victor Morgan discussed his opportunity to attend a closing activity for the summer Pre-K programs in his area where various principals, teachers, and community members were complimentary of and thankful for DECAL's support.
- Luann Purcell reported attending an E3Z Summit in Valdosta and mentioned that Lowndes County had over fifty Quality Rated centers.
- Susan Harper reported attending an E3Z Summit in Valdosta and an opening of a Dougherty county Pre-K.

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

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs presented an overview of DECAL's governance structure. She updated the board on recent grant applications. She discussed DECAL's involvement in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). She then shared results from the 2016 Employee Survey which were, for the most part, positive.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, reported on current fiscal year expenditures and shared DECAL's possible legislative agenda. He shared updates on CAPS including new proposed funding restrictions, increased provider rates, and increased tiered reimbursement rates.
- Reg Griffin, Chief Communications Officer, gave an overview of DECAL's recent media coverage. He shared televised video clips relating to the department's work and recapped DECAL's social media outreach (9,588).
- Carol Hartman, Director of Policy and System Reform, presented on the work and status of DECAL's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant. Dr. Bentley Ponder presented two research Studies: Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant and Quality Rated. He informed the board that we are looking at both of these studies with a different lens. Dr. Ponder discussed the self-assessment process for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant. Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, presented updates on System Reform. She updated stats on Quality Rated and shared details of the Quality Rated public awareness campaign. She introduced, Joseph Mole, a social worker at Emmaus House, who spoke about his experiences as a Family Engagement Opportunity Grant recipient.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, reminded board members about the proposed rule changes on which they would be acting after the public hearing. The proposed rule changes relate to current rules pertaining to disaster preparedness and emergencies for child care programs by adding provisions for circumstances not covered in the existing rules (see slides). Additionally, there are proposed changes to health and safety training and orientation rules. Lastly, Ms. Lewis asked the board for permission to move forward to amend the criminal records check rules to align with federal legislation. The board voted to grant permission for DECAL staff to move forward. Proposed rule changes will be brought to board at a later date.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports, presented current statistics on Georgia's Pre-K Program stating that most Pre-K classes had already started. She updated the board on the Pre-K Teachers of the Year award explaining that the six finalists had been notified. Two winners will be named in late September. Ms. Adams discussed the Quality Rated Inclusion Endorsement program and distributed copies of the Inclusive Classroom Profile instrument. Ms. Adams previewed the Planning Educational Activities for Children (PEACH).

Board committees met during lunch.

Committee chairs presented their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. She turned the report over to Ray Higgins who referred the board to a slide that showed the FY2018 budget. Chairman Morgan said the committee recommended that the FY2018 budget be approved by the board. Jerri Kropp motioned to approve the budget. The board unanimously approved the FY2018 budget.
- Jerri Kropp reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. Dr. Kropp discussed the new ATLAS system for Nutrition Services and other nutritional updates. There has been an effort to gather information for teachers surrounding supplemental pay. This coincides with new professional development going on with programs. Additionally, all professional development certificates will be uploaded. There will no longer be paper certificates. Her group discussed the ongoing longitudinal study that allows DECAL to look at Georgia Pre-K and Georgia kindergarten together.
- Susan Harper reported that the System Reform Committee had discussed the E3Z zones that target areas with a low level or lack of quality child care and to increase opportunities for these areas. Ms. Harper said money is awarded to people within those four zones. Carol Hartman discussed new opportunities arising from round 2 of the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant.

Public Hearing: Chairman Morgan turned the meeting over to Christie Bearden to convene a public hearing on the proposed rule revisions. Ms. Bearden explained the process for the public comment period. She called the hearing to order and opened the floor to comments on the proposed rule changes 290-2-3 and 590-1-1. Eight written comments were provided to the board regarding the rule changes. Two people spoke regarding the rule changes.

Public hearing was suspended and public comment period was opened for members of the public wanting to speak about issues/concerns/topics NOT relating to the rule changes. Two people spoke regarding changes to funding for the CAPS program and about federal labor law that impacts minimum salaries.

Public hearing was then officially closed.

Victor Morgan introduced proposed rule changes for board approval.

- Phil Davis motioned to approve changes to Rules Chapter 290-2-3-.04, 290-2-3-.07, 290-2-3-.08, and 290-2-3-.11. Kay Ford seconded. The board voted, and rule revisions were unanimously approved.
- Susan Harper motioned to approve changes to rules chapter 591-1-1-.14, 591-1-1-.21, 591-1-1-.27, 591-1-1.31 and 591-1-1.33. Kathy Howell seconded. The board voted, and rule revisions were unanimously approved.

Victor Morgan reminded the board that their next meeting will take place November 10, 2016. He provided the proposed dates for 2017 (2/16, 5/11, 8/17, and 11/16). He asked for a motion to approve those dates. Phil Davis motioned to approve the dates, and Kay Ford seconded the dates. The dates were unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.