

Board of Early Care and Learning
Meeting Summary
November 10, 2016

Attendees

Board Members:

Victor Morgan, Susan Harper, Dawnn Henderson, Kathy Howell, Tangela Johnson, Jerri Kropp, Carlene Talton, Melissa Boekhaus, Phil Davis, Luann Purcell

Guests:

Hanah Goldberg, Britta Hallberg, Joy Hawkins, Maria Claudia Ortega, Joe Perreault, Patricia Sullivant, Pam Runkle, Jessica Woltjen, Emily Pelton, Heather Denny, Henry Liebling, Lynn Manfredi/Petitt, Brian Lipton, Evelin Hicks, Carolyn Lloyd, Angelique Thomas, Tyese Lawyer

Bright from the Start Staff:

Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Susan Adams, Kristin Bernhard, Jennie Couture, Craig Detweiler, Reg Griffin, Ray Higgins, Kristie Lewis, Ira Sudman, Allison Setterlind, Woody Dover, Falita Flowers, Janice Haker, Jackie Shivers, Carol Hartman, Sharon McPherson, Rob O'Callaghan, Bentley Ponder, Lisa Rambhajan, Rian Ringsrud, Pam Stevens, Robin Stevens, Laura Wagner, Mark Waits, Bridget Walker, Liz Young, Jessie Bruno, Brian Griffin, Faith Duncan, Jim Keith, Titus Dyson, Ben Appling, Jakeise Moody

The fourth meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning in 2016 opened with the approval of the day's agenda and the August 18, 2016, board meeting minutes. Inspiration was given by Dawnn Henderson.

Members of the board provided updates on their activities:

- Board Chair Victor Morgan introduced new board member Melissa Boekhaus, who shared on her education and career with Wellstar in Mableton, Ga.
- Dawnn Henderson attended the Atlanta All Staff meeting in November. She thought it went well and appreciated the commissioner's talk on the importance of creating relationships and building connections.
- Jerri Kropp announced that Channie Frasier, a teacher in Statesboro, won one of the two Pre-K Teacher of the Year awards. Kropp participated in the award ceremony. Kropp also attended and enjoyed the Statesboro All Staff meeting.
- Tangela Johnson attended the Atlanta All Staff meeting and thought it was a success.
- Carlene Talton attended the Atlanta All Staff meeting.
- Phil Davis attended the Stone Mountain All Staff meeting. He enjoyed having an opportunity to meet with field consultants.
- Kathy Howell went to the Atlanta All Staff meeting and read to a Pre-K class the week after Georgia Pre-K Week.

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

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs recognized and thanked Janice Haker who is retiring at the end of the year for all of her hard work. She then introduced the new Head Start State Collaboration Director Allison Setterlind. The Commissioner announced the winners of Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year and the four employees who have received the Spirit of DECAL award so far. The Commissioner introduced Emily Pelton, from Voices for Georgia's Children, who reported on this year's 6th annual Pre-K Week. Pelton acknowledged Governor and Mrs. Deal's support and participation; Pre-K Week was a great success again with more legislators and local school system leaders participating.
- Ray Higgins, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented on current fiscal year updates and upcoming proposed legislation relating to DECAL for the 2017 session. He also provided an overview of the CAPS Transition Project. Rian Ringsrud, Director of Audits and Compliance, updated the board on the status of the audits and compliance unit. Bentley Ponder, Director of Research and Policy Analysis, shared that DECAL was the recently awarded a grant to plan an evaluation of the implementation of Georgia's CCDF State Plan.
- Elisabetta Kasfir, Assistant Commissioner for Federal Programs, presented on the CAPS program and recent changes to its structure.
- Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform, shared on the increased participation in Quality Rated and the ongoing QR public awareness campaign. Bernhard invited two Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant recipients, Maria Claudia Ortega, owner of My Little Geniuses, and Tyese Lawyer, President and CEO of Our House, Inc. to share how the grant had impacted their programs.
- Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports, presented current Pre-K data and explained the Quality Rated School System Pilot.

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- Jennie Couture, Director of Practice and Support, presented on the work of Georgia's Comprehensive Assessment System Taskforce. The taskforce, a joint effort between DECAL and the DPH, has completed a report that will be released soon. Couture then presented on improving care for infants and toddlers.
- Pam Stevens, Quality Rated Director, discussed the Quality Rated Subsidy Classroom Grants. Stevens presented ways to improve the quality of infant/toddler classrooms.
- Janice Haker, Head Start State Collaboration Director, introduced Allison Setterlind, the new Georgia Head Start State Collaboration Director. Setterlind presented the new Head Start Program Performance Standards. Haker presented on some of Head Start's ongoing projects, including their involvement with WIC, Foster Care, the USF Research Project and Farm to ECE.
- Kristie Lewis, Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services, provided an overview on the current structure of CCS and how it has changed over the years.

Board Chair Victor Morgan opened the meeting for public comments. No members of the public signed up for comment, and the public comments portion was closed.

Board committees met during lunch. All board committees gave their reports:

- Carlene Talton reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee reviewed current fiscal year expenditures and discussed the recent fraud assessment results and areas for improvement.
- Jerri Kropp reported for the Programs and Rules Committee. The committee discussed the changes to the CAPS Program and an upcoming CAPS stakeholder meeting in December. Falita Flowers, Nutrition Services Director, shared information on the nutrition program and summer meal service. Kristie Lewis updated the committee on the exemption visit project. Susan Adams reported further on the ongoing Pre-K longitudinal currently in its fourth year. Craig Detweiler gave updates on the IT division. Janice Haker provided further details on Head Start programs.
- Susan Harper reported for the System Reform Committee. The committee discussed ways to increase participation in Quality Rated, and Harper encouraged her fellow board members to reach out to centers in their communities. The committee discussed the Early Learning Partnership with Head Start. The E3Zs are continuing to work to increase participation in four regions across Georgia. Harper explained how the E3Z community coordinators can work with residents to write op-ed articles for their local newspaper.

Board chair Victor Morgan reminded board members of the dates for the 2017 quarterly board meetings: February 16, May 11, August 17, and November 16.

With no other board business, the meeting was adjourned.