

Board of Early Care and Learning
Meeting Summary
August 16, 2018

Attendees

Board Members: Susan Harper (Chair), Jerri Kropp, Melissa Boekhaus, Phil Davis, Sheri Hooper, Kathy Howell, Dr. Luann Purcell, Tangela Johnson, Carlene Talton

Guests: *Brett Copeland, Joe Perreault, Hanah Goldberg, Katie Landes, Paul Walker, Kayla Washington, Pam Runkle, Maryum Gibson, Kelly Farr, Erica Sitkoff, Lynn Manfredi-Petit, Patricia Sullivant*

Bright from the Start Staff: Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Rian Ringsrud, Elisabetta Kasfir, Kristin Bernhard, Susan Adams, Pam Stevens, Bentley Ponder, Laura Wagner, Allison Setterlind, Amy Page, Craig Detweiler, Christi Moore, Reg Griffin, Ira Sudman, Carrie Ashbee, Carol Hartman, Denise Jenson, Christie Bearden, Faith Duncan, Jill O'Meara, Danielle Williams, Darra Jackson, Clayton Adams, Reisha Merriman, Brandy Locchetta, Taijha Harden, Laura Reid, Jackie Shivers, William Cox, Woody Dover, Michael Rodgers, Ben Appling, Tamika Boone, Sonja Adams, LeighAnn Hendrix, Mark Waits, Quandra Collins, Shayna Funke, Sonja Steptoe

The August 16, 2018 meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning was called to order at 9 a.m. by Board Chair Susan Harper. The Board unanimously approved the day's agenda.

Ms. Harper asked the board to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2018 meeting. Jerri Kropp requested a correction to note that she was not present. The Board approved the corrected minutes unanimously.

Ms. Harper explained that the minutes from the February 15, 2018 meeting had not been approved because a quorum of the board was not present at the May meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes from February 15, 2018.

Phil Davis provided the inspiration.

Board members provided updates on their recent activities: Ms. Harper and Ms. Howell attended the Georgia Lottery Corp.'s 25th Anniversary Celebration on June 20, 2018 at the Capitol.

DECAL staff provided updates on their program areas:

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs announced several recent leadership changes that included the departure of Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services Kristie Lewis. The Commissioner has selected Pam Stevens, DECAL's Quality Rated Policy and Partnerships Director, to succeed Lewis. Commissioner Jacobs announced that she has upgraded assistant commissioners to deputy commissioners. She also reported on recent opportunities she has had to speak/represent DECAL at various events.
- Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration Rian Ringsrud's presentation focused on the final budget totals for the 2018 fiscal year (FY2018), the FY2019 budget, and the proposed FY2020 budget. He reminded the board that later in the meeting the Board will be asked to approve the amended FY2019 budget and the proposed FY2020 budget. He also introduced Mike Rodgers, who succeeded Sharon McPherson as finance director.
- Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs Elisabetta Kasfir reminded the board about the Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT) Grant that DECAL received and introduced CAPS Family Support Director Laura Wagner who shared details of a PACTT partnership between DECAL and the Technical College System of Georgia.
- Head Start State Collaboration Director Allison Setterlind updated the Board on the Collaboration's five-year plan and outlined several special projects her office is undertaking.
- Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning Executive Director Carrie Ashbee announced the foundation's upcoming Moonlight Through the Pines fundraising event at Lightwood Plantation on October 20, 2018. She also mentioned that the Foundation used a \$650,000 grant from the Joseph Whitehead Foundation to distribute new yard signs for Quality Rated providers.

- Deputy Commissioner of System Reform Kristin Bernhard shared the latest data on the Quality Rated Program and reminded the board about the Quality Rated Subsidy Grants (QRSB). She then introduced Brett Copeland, from Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC), which operates child care centers that have received a QRSB on two campuses. He discussed how the QRSB has benefited his program and the students at CGTC.
- Deputy Commissioner of Pre-K and Instructional Supports Susan Adams reported on the Summer Transition Programs and the steady increase in access and participation. Ms. Adams reported that Georgia has 84,000 slots in approximately 3,900 classrooms and will serve 60% of 4-year-olds this school year.
- Senior Director of Research and Policy Bentley Ponder announced that DECAL has been awarded a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Research Grant – Phase 2 to implement plans made in Phase 1 of a similar grant. The grant is for \$1 million over four years and will focus on infant and toddler education.
- Process and Policy Manager Amy Page outlined the criminal records-check rule revisions DECAL proposes to enact, effective October 1, 2018, to align with stiffer federal CCDF requirements and related state legislation regarding employee vetting procedures. Ms. Page also asked the board to give DECAL permission to move forward on revising rules related to KOALA reporting requirements.

Ms. Harper explained that the Board would vote on the proposed background-check rule revisions after the public hearing but could vote immediately on granting permission to begin revising KOALA reporting requirements. The Board voted unanimously to permit DECAL to work on revising the KOALA rules.

Ms. Harper adjourned the meeting for lunch and committee meetings at 11:30 a.m. She called the meeting back to order at 1 p.m. and turned it over to Christie Bearden, DECAL's hearing officer, who presided over the Public Hearing regarding proposed rule revisions.

Mr. Joe Perreault of the Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia was the only speaker during the public hearing on proposed rule revisions. Following Mr. Perreault's comments, Bearden recessed the hearing and opened the floor for anyone wishing to make comments to the board about other issues, concerns, items. No one elected to speak.

The Board meeting then continued, with committee chairs delivering their reports:

- Ms. Kathy Howell reported for the program and rules committee on behalf of Committee Chair Tangela Johnson, who had to leave after lunch.
- Mr. Phil Davis reported for the system reform committee.
- Ms. Carlene Talton reported that the budget and finance committee discussed the amended FY 2019 budget and the proposed 2020 budget in preparation for the Board vote later in the meeting.

Ms. Harper turned the meeting over to Ms. Bearden, who reconvened the public hearing. No one came forward to comment, so Ms. Bearden adjourned the public hearing and comment period.

Ms. Harper announced it was time to act on the proposed revisions. She explained that after considering Mr. Perreault's concerns and consulting with legal counsel, the Board concluded that the rule revisions were written carefully to comply with federal and state regulations. Additionally, with no meeting scheduled before the October 1 implementation deadline, the Board decided to vote on the changes as written.

The board unanimously approved the rule revisions for Family Child Care Learning Homes.

The board unanimously approved the rule revisions for Child Care Learning Centers.

The board unanimously approved the rule revisions for Support Centers.

The board unanimously approved the amended FY2019 budget and the proposed FY2020 budget.

Ms. Harper thanked the board members for their attendance and reminded them that the next meeting will be November 15, 2018.

Ms. Harper adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

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