

**Board of Early Care and Learning  
Meeting Summary  
November 21, 2019**

**Attendees**

**Board Members:** Kristy Beam, Jen Bennecke, Debra Brock, Phil Davis (Vice Chair), Theresa Magpuri-Lavell, Kristin Morrissey, Cristina Washell

**Guests:** Paul Walker, Hanah Goldberg, Katie Landes, Joe Perrault, Maria Ramos, Kayla Washington, Erica Fener Sitkoff

**Bright from the Start Staff:** Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Rian Ringsrud, Elisabetta Kasfir, Susan Adams, Pam Stevens, Bentley Ponder, Ira Sudman, Dennis Brice, Robin Stevens, Allison Setterlind, Maria Goss, Christi Moore, Michael Rodgers, Randy Hudgins, Reg Griffin, Carrie Ashbee, Laura Wagner, Jennie Couture, Liz Young, Faith Duncan, Jackie Shivers, Tamika Boone, Catherine Broussard, Melvia Usury, Farouk Baksh, LariLyn Beyer, Jill O'Meara, Rob O'Callahan, Meghan McNail, Laura Reid, Bridget Ratajczak, Woody Dover, Shayna Funke, Quandra Collins, Demetrius Wilburn, Anita Hasan, Jessica Guarneros, Sonja Steptoe

The November 21, 2019, meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning was called to order at 9 a.m. by Board Vice Chair Phil Davis. Mr. Davis explained that Board Chair Susan Harper was recuperating from an illness.

Mr. Davis asked for a motion to accept the day's agenda. Ms. Morrissey moved to accept, and Ms. Beam seconded. The Board accepted the minutes unanimously.

Mr. Davis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2019, Board meeting. Ms. Bennecke moved to approve, and Ms. Washell seconded. The Board approved the minutes unanimously.

Ms. Brock provided the Inspiration and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and merry Christmas.

The Board members provided updates on their recent activities.

DECAL leaders and staff provided updates on their work:

- Commissioner Amy Jacobs announced that Heather Williams of Central Georgia Tech in Houston County was chosen as Pre-K Teacher of the Year in the Child Care Center category. Johnathan Hines of Barack H. Obama Elementary in DeKalb County was chosen in the Public Center category. The Commissioner also updated the Board on the progress DECAL is making in implementing Governor Brian Kemp's Language & Literacy Endorsement initiative. She introduced Erica Fener Sitkoff, executive director for Voices of Georgia's Children, who recapped all of the activities conducted during Georgia Pre-K Week 2019 in October.
- Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration Rian Ringsrud provided an update on the agency's state fiscal year (SFY) 2020 budget and expenditures. He also shared highlights of the 2019 Summer Food Service Program.
- Deputy Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports Susan Adams explained the agency's work on the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), the submission of the PDG Renewal Grant Application, and discussed the Georgia SEEDS for Success Program.
- Chief Communications Officer Reg Griffin introduced the new DECAL logo and presented the agency's branding materials that were rolled out on October 1 and have been incorporated on the department's website, letterhead, PowerPoint presentations, and social media platforms.

Mr. Davis recessed the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and resumed it at 10:40 a.m.

- Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services (CCS) Pam Stevens discussed a new newsletter the division will begin issuing for consultants and providers in December. She also shared details about a new technical assistance unit pilot program and business practices training CCS will offer to providers.
- Head Start Collaboration Office Director Allison Setterlind explained the program's work and discussed several collaborative initiatives being conducted with local partners including the Department of Public Health, Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Head Start Association. She also updated the Board on state Head Start data.
- Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs Elisabetta Kasfir and Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships outlined the rationales, policies, processes, and activities involved in the goal of having all programs providing CAPS receive a Quality Rated star rating by December 31, 2020. Ms. Kasfir updated the Board on the latest CAPS enrollment data, while Mr. Ponder shared the latest statistics showing the growth and value of Quality Rated, including the number of providers participating in the star rating system and the number of children, including those receiving subsidies, enrolled in Quality Rated programs.

Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting for lunch and committee meetings at 11:50 a.m., and called the meeting back to order at 1:00 p.m.

When the meeting reconvened, Mr. Davis opened the Public Comment period. No one signed up to speak.

The Board meeting resumed with committee chairs delivering their reports.

- Ms. Morrissey reported that the Finance Committee discussed the SFY2020 budget and applauded the team for only using 9% of the budgeted funds for administrative expenses.
- Ms. Beam reported that the Programs and Rules Committee heard from the Nutrition Services Division about the preparations for the 2020 Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and next year's Farm to School and ECE events. CAPS reported on the DECAL/TCSG fall partnership meetings. CCS updated the Committee on the School Age Research Project and the Georgia's Pre-K Program outlined its expanded online learning platform. Head Start explained its interagency partnerships to discuss how data from DECAL and elsewhere can inform and enhance outreach efforts especially to families experiencing homelessness.
- Ms. Magpuri-Lavell reported that the Quality Innovations and Partnerships Committee received general updates on the Community Outreach and Partnerships efforts, including the Early Education Community Partnership coordinators' work; an introduction to the new EHS-CCP director; and the Research Team's grant writing, and data analysis. The committee also heard overviews of other projects related to the 2020 Goal, including Quality Rated's process improvements and new class observation tools.

Following the committee reports, Mr. Davis closed the Public Comment Period when no one came forward to speak.

Mr. Davis announced that the next Board meeting will be held on February 20, 2020.

He adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.