
Board of Early Care and Learning

Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2022 — 9:00 a.m.
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE – East Tower
Oak Conference Room and via GoToMeeting
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner

Meeting Minutes

Board Members

Kristy Beam, Jen Bennecke, Debra Brock (Vice Chair), Phil Davis (Chair), Susan Harper, Joanna Hill, Kathy Howell, Kristin Morrissey, Kimberly Neville, Luann Purcell, Cristina Washell, Karla Zisook

Public Guests

Myra Abdus-Saboor, Patricia Andrews, Laura Anglea, Meredith Armistead, Connie Braswell, Olivia Buckner, Karen Carpenter, Unique Clay, Carolyn Colon, Shaundria Dean, Michelle Doleman, Antoinette Elliott, Janet Forbes, Annamaria Gibbs, Hannah Goldberg, Lisa Hardt, Rhoda Herrington, Elsie Hopkins, Emily Howland, Nicole Lagatta, Melissa Lewis, Ana Magana, Camilla Mason, Keisha McClendon, Suezenette McDonald, Sharekka Moore, Stacie Neal, Terri Oglesby, Melanie Parten, Keanna Peterson, Carolyn Pleasant, Tunisia Pryor, Sandra Ramsey, Pamela Robinson, Christie Rowell, V. Sanders, Tameka Shearer, Helen Sloat, Stacey Smith, Tricia Smith, Janice Souder, Brandi Swain, Stacy Swenson, Austin Trott, Eugene Wallace, Karen Whisnant, Brigitte Willis, Jessica Woltjen, Merriam Wynn

DECAL Staff

Amy Jacobs, Commissioner
Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports
Dennis Brice, Chief Information Officer
Reg Griffin, Chief Communications Officer
Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs
Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships
Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration
Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services
Ira Sudman, Chief Legal Officer
Lari Lyn Beyer, Quality Rated Regional Assessor Manager
Chondra Bolton, CACDS Coordinator
Tamika Boone, Nutrition Services Director
Jennifer Bridgeman, CCS Quality and Process Improvement Manager
Jerry Brown, Communications Specialist
Vanessa Brown, EHS Partnership, Education Program Specialist
Erin Darley, Quality Rated Assessor
Kimberly Davis, Quality Rated Regional Assessor Manager
Glenda Davis-Canteen, Early Education Community Partnerships Coordinator NW
Faith Duncan, Pre-K Field Operations Director
Bart Ellington, Accounts Receivable Supervisor
Rebecca Ellis, Practice and Support Services Director, Instructional Supports
Kendra Ferguson, CAPS Special Projects and Initiatives Manager

Megan Fickes, Director, Early Head Start Partnership
David Ginsburg, Contract and Procurement Attorney
Kristin Goetz, Professional Learning Specialist
Randy Hudgins, Director of Research and Policy Analysis
John Huston, Marketing and Outreach Specialist
Denise, Jenson, Director, Quality Rated
Melinda Knowles, Quality Rated Assessor
Jarita Lawrence-Burdette, EHS Business Operations Specialist
Laura Lucas, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Director
Barbara McWethy, Workforce Support Manager
Lindsay Miller, Quality Rated Structural Quality Manager
Christi Moore, Professional Learning Director
Dana Morrison, Director of CCS Field Operations
Miranda Murphy, Training Approval Specialist
Amir Nilforooshan, IT Support Specialist
Quandra Obi, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Rob O'Callaghan, Senior Research Analyst
Jill O'Meara, Community Partnerships and Projects Manager
Valerie Perez, Research Analyst
Bridget Ratajczak, Child and Family Development Supervisor
Laura Reid, Professional Learning Community Specialist
Anne Rein, Department Writer/Editor
April Rogers, Director, CCS Enforcement Operations
Barbara Sanders, Business Analyst
Brittany Seltrecht, QIP Quality Assurance Admin
Jackie Shivers, Director, Pre-K Quality Support
Sonja Steptoe, QIP Communications and Outreach Manager
Robin Stevens, Director of Human Resources
Audreana Todd, QIP Special Projects Coordinator
Keturah Wafer, Procurement and Facilities Specialist
Mark Waits, Senior Writer
Laura Wagner, Executive Director, DECAL Foundation
Bridgett Walker, Early Head Start Partnership Project Manager
Liz Young, Government Relations Director

The August 25, 2022 meeting of the Board of Early Care and Learning was held in the Oak Conference room and livestreamed via GoToWebinar.

1. Call to Order

At 9:03 a.m. Board Chair Phil Davis called the meeting to order.

2. Welcome

Mr. Davis welcomed Board members, DECAL staff, and guests.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Mr. Davis asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda. Ms. Zisook moved to accept, and Ms. Purcell seconded. The Board accepted the agenda unanimously. Mr. Davis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Ms. Harper moved to approve, and Ms. Morrissey seconded. The Board approved the minutes unanimously.

4. Memorial

In lieu of inspiration Mr. Davis read a tribute to former first lady of Georgia Sandra Deal who died on August 23. Commissioner Amy Jacobs and other Board members shared remembrances of Mrs. Deal.

5. Board Member Updates

Mr. Davis invited Board members to share updates on their recent activities. Ms. Brock reported that her school's Pre-K program has full enrollment with 56 children, and the year is off to a fabulous start.

6. DECAL Staff Reports

DECAL leaders provided updates about the agency's work.

a. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Jacobs briefly reviewed the federal funding DECAL received for COVID-19 relief and the projects that have been funded so far. She also made a presentation about new projects that will be funded from remaining American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds. Projects to support providers include a provider rate increase of 7.87% to CAPS providers' ACCESS rate; \$80 million in additional health and safety grants; \$5,000 grants to each Pre-K classroom for technology, instructional materials, approved curricula; and classroom furniture; Quality Rated restoration grants for classrooms and staff as providers prepare for on-site observations, which resumed in July; and strengthening business supports for providers. There are a number of projects supporting the early care and learning (ECE) workforce, and DECAL will convene an ECE task force to strengthen the professional workforce. To support families the ACCESS program has been extended through September 2023, and a 2Gen pilot is underway supporting student parents at three Technical College System of Georgia campuses. DECAL will also offer 10 new Community Transformation Grants and grant extensions to current grantees. DECAL will also sponsor a CAPS research project to study CAPS from the family perspective and a system-level evaluation about the impact of COVID-19 relief funding.

b. Finance and Administration Update

Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration Rian Ringsrud reviewed DECAL's expenses for fiscal year 2022 in comparison to the budget. DECAL spent 99% of its allocated funds, \$1.45 billion out of \$1.6 billion. The Pre-K budget ended the year with a balance of \$9.4 million because the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget elected to fund the Summer Transition Program out of federal COVID-19 relief funds. The surplus in DECAL's Pre-K funds will be returned to the state treasury. The nutrition program ended the year with a balance of \$105,000. The \$300,000 in state funds allocated to DECAL for grants to support experienced sponsors moving into unserved counties were received late in the year, and Mr. Ringsrud's team did not have time to award all the funds. He has asked that DECAL be allowed to retain the remaining funds to award grants for next year's summer feeding program.

Mr. Davis asked whether the \$9.4 million for Pre-K being returned to the state treasury shows up in the proposed 2024 budget. Mr. Ringsrud replied that it is built into both the amended 2023 budget and the proposed 2024 budget. Commissioner Jacobs added that the Governor has already announced that he

will be giving DECAL at least \$12 million next year. Ms. Harper commented that usually if you don't spend all the money you're allocated, you can't get it again. Mr. Ringsrud said that although "use it or lose it" is usually the case, that does not apply in this situation because the transaction was planned with the Office of Management and the Budget. Ms. Howell asked whether it would be feasible to use the extra funds to double the number of classes. The Commissioner responded that DECAL is always trying to expand the number of Summer Transition Program (STP) classes and has made great strides in recent years. Expansion depends a lot on the willingness of programs to open up for six weeks during the summer. Some don't want to, but DECAL offers incentives to encourage them, and the STP has expanded a lot over the past two years. Ms. Beam asked whether, if there is a surplus of Pre-K funds, DECAL is allowed to reallocate the funds. The Commissioner replied that DECAL can spend any extra funds within the Pre-K program.

Mr. Ringsrud also gave an update about the summer feeding program, Happy Helpings. As of Monday, August 22, Happy Helpings had served 1,986,314 meals at 875 sites in 85 counties this year. Sponsor claims for reimbursement are still being received for the months of July and August, and Mr. Ringsrud expects the total number of meals to approach 3 million. Nine experienced sponsors receive a total of \$195,000 in start-up grants, and Happy Helpings expanded into 10 previously-unserved counties: Atkinson, Baker, Echols, Grady, Jasper, Lamar, Madison, Polk, Sumter and Upson. Happy Helpings now provides meals in six out of the 10 counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity.

Mr. Davis asked about the role of the sponsor. Mr. Ringsrud said that a sponsor is a nonprofit organization, such as a public library, YMCA, or Boys and Girls club, that identifies sites and supports the sites with record-keeping and other administrative functions.

c. Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Update

Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Susan Adams gave a brief report on the Summer Transition Program. She also highlighted significant growth in the program over the past three years, especially in the program for rising kindergarteners. She addressed Board members' comments on the possibility for adding capacity to the program, saying that the fact that we know in advance we'll be receiving funds from the Governor allows us to plan ahead and communicate with providers. Ms. Adams expressed optimism that the program will continue to expand. She also shared photos of some of the children and grandchildren of DECAL employees who are starting Pre-K this year and Board members that they are invited to participate in Georgia's Pre-K Week, October 3 through 7. She introduced Practice and Support Services Director Rebecca Ellis who made a presentation about developmental milestones, the skills that most children demonstrate by a certain age. Awareness of developmental milestones allows families and professionals to make sure children are on track and get early intervention if they are not. Ms. Ellis acknowledged Child and Family Development Supervisor Bridget Ratajczak, who led efforts to publicize revisions to the milestones made by the CDC earlier this year. The CDC simplified the milestones and added 15-month and 30-month milestone checklists and social-emotional milestones. Ms. Ellis also reported on the three-part Inclusion Training for providers developed by the Inclusion and Support team and piloted last spring.

Ms. Zisook commended Ms. Ellis on her team's work and asked whether any provider may attend the Inclusion Training. Ms. Ellis responded that it is open to all providers as long as there is a slot available.

d. Federal Programs Update

Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs Elisabetta Kasfir gave an overview of the CAPS program, including funding, eligibility, and demographics of CAPS recipients. CAPS typically receives about \$60

million in state funds and \$280,000 from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant. Additional federal stimulus funds allowed DECAL to create the ACCESS program. To be eligible for CAPS, a family must be in one of 13 priority groups, have income at or below program limits, and engaged in a state-approved activity for at least 24 hours per week. A large majority of CAPS providers, 74.2%, are Child Care Learning Centers (CCLC). Family Child Care Learning homes (FCCLH) make up 15.4% of CAPS providers, and other types of providers, exempt, informal, Department of Defense, and university programs make up the rest. Of children with CAPS scholarships 96% are enrolled at CCLCs; 2.4% are enrolled at FCCLHs; 1.9% are enrolled at exempt providers; and 0.2% are cared for in informal settings. The distribution is consistent with child care capacity as a whole, Ms. Kasfir said.

Ms. Morrissey asked whether the 2.4% of children enrolled in FCCLHs represents capacity, family preference, or both. Ms. Kasfir said it's likely both.

As of July 31, 2022, 69,780 children have active CAPS scholarships. CAPS has a utilization rate of about 80%, meaning that at any point in time the program is actually paying for about 80% of the number of active scholarships. Families qualify for CAPS as families and receive scholarships for all of their children. Sometimes families do not need scholarships for all their children, and this may be one of the reasons for the difference between active scholarship numbers and the numbers actually using the scholarships.

Mr. Davis asked whether qualifying for a CAPS Scholarships gives a family access to funding but not a commitment to use the funding? Ms. Kasfir responded that when a scholarship is issued, DECAL is committed. The family can use the scholarship; they don't have to do something else to turn it on. Mr. Davis said, "So there's a statistical probability that only 80% will use their scholarships." Ms. Kasfir confirmed that is the case. Mr. Davis asked, "Does that keep us from serving other people who would actively use it?" Ms. Kasfir said, "Not since we changed the program in 2016. Prior to 2016 we had something called 'flags.' Every county had a certain number of children they could serve, and when they hit that number, they couldn't let any more children in. Since 2016 we have never closed the program." She explained that the program now varies the income limit for the "Very Low Income" priority group as needed to make sure that the program can stay open.

Ms. Zisook asked whether a child in Pre-K can get CAPS. Ms. Kasfir said they can get wraparound care (before and after school). Ms. Zisook asked whether the siblings of children in Pre-K may get CAPS scholarships. Ms. Kasfir responded that our system recognizes families rather than individual children. When a family qualifies for CAPS, all children in the family qualify. Ms. Zisook asked whether younger siblings can maintain CAPS scholarships after the Pre-K student moves on to kindergarten. Ms. Kasfir said that the other children in the family will continue receiving CAPS until they come up for redetermination. If the family continues to meet income and activity requirements, they will continue to receive CAPS. Families are not required to be in a priority group at redetermination.

Ms. Kasfir shared some demographic information about CAPS families and a breakdown of enrollment by priority group.

Ms. Morrissey asked whether the breakdown by priority group is based on current data or typical data. Ms. Kasfir responded that it is current data. Ms. Morrissey commented that some of the data points are very sad. It's sad to see so much domestic violence, she said.

Ms. Harper pointed out that rural areas have fewer children, but in some rural counties there is no child care available. That's an issue for families who might want child care. Ms. Kasfir said that another

reason a family might choose an informal provider is that no licensed providers are available in their area.

Ms. Kasfir announced that 93% of children with CAPS scholarships are now cared for by Quality Rated providers. Of the remaining children, 5% are cared for by a provider with probationary or provisional Quality Rated status.

7. Break

Mr. Davis recessed the meeting for a short break at 10:45 a.m. The meeting resumed and staff reports continued at 10:55 a.m.

e. Quality Innovation and Partnerships (QIP) Update

Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships Bentley Ponder introduced Director of Research and Policy Analysis Randy Hudgins who made a presentation about the TARO evaluation results and recommendations. Mr. Hudgins introduced Quality Rated Director Denise Jenson who gave an overview of the process DECAL follows to move providers through probationary or provisional status. Live, on-site Quality Rated observations resumed July 11, Ms. Jenson reported, and the program will kick off focus groups to look at revisions to the Quality Rated program during the fall in conjunction with the 10-year anniversary celebration. Mr. Ponder gave an update about the plans for the anniversary celebrations. DECAL will host regional meetings in three locations, Dalton on October 24, Metro Atlanta on November 16, and Valdosta on December 9. He invited Board members to come to the meeting in Atlanta, which occurs the day before the next Board meeting.

Mr. Davis asked how Quality Rated providers are distributed across the state. Mr. Ponder responded that the distribution roughly mirrors the distribution of CAPS providers, which mirrors the distribution of the population.

Ms. Morrissey asked whether the state contributes any funds to help providers improve quality. Mr. Ponder responded that the CCR&Rs provide on-site instruction, coaching, and technical assistance. The Quality Rated team also helps with technical assistance.

f. Child Care Services (CCS) Update

Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services Pam Stevens reported on grants DECAL made to child care providers for COVID-19 test kits, PPE, and cleaning supplies. DECAL allocated \$14,000,000 from funds received through the 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). Grants ranging from \$450 to \$9,000 were made to 4,343 Child Care Learning Centers (CCLC) and Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLH). The program's actual cost was \$11,842,200. Ms. Stevens briefly reviewed the proposed rule changes for CCLCs and FCCLHs. CCS decided to drop a proposed new rule about record retention, Ms. Stevens said. She reviewed the public comments received prior to the Board meeting, most of which oppose the proposed change to FCCLH rule 290-2-3-.05 requiring that DECAL be given access to all parts of the home. Ms. Stevens clarified that the rule does not represent a change to DECAL's authority. The agency has always had the authority to enter any part of the home, and the rule change is a clarification to make longstanding policy transparent. She added that a CCS consultant would never enter private parts of a child care learning home without cause, for example, if a consultant heard a baby crying in another part of the house. She also clarified that any adult in any part of the FCCLH during business operating hours must have passed a criminal background check.

8. Lunch and Committee Meetings

Mr. Davis adjourned for lunch at 11:33 a.m.

9. Public Comment Period

Mr. Davis called the meeting back to order at 1:02 p.m. for the public comment period. Hearing Officer Greg Brown gave instructions about the public comment period and asked Board Liaison Quandra Obi whether anyone had signed up to comment about the proposed rule changes. Ms. Obi responded that Ana Magana, Executive Director of the Professional Family ChildCare Alliance of Georgia (PFCCAG) had signed up. Ms. Magana read a statement signed by PFCCAG Board Chair Sandra Ramsey on behalf of the organization's Board of Directors opposing the proposed change to FCCLH rule Section 290-2-3-.05, Inspections and Investigations of the FCCLH rules. "PFCCAG board of directors understands the principle behind the proposed rule change. We support the authority of the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to ensure children's safety. Yet, we are concerned about licensed family child care learning home (FCCLH) providers' right to privacy in their homes. The potential abuses of the proposed rule change are many. In essence, the proposal opens the family child care provider's entire home environment to inspection regardless of reason. The optics alone could cause the family child care provider a loss of business. This proposal is contrary to the original rule that designated the separation of business and personal use which continues to be recognized by the Occupational Health and Safety Act for home-based businesses.

"Georgia's history of policing and government-sanctioned oppression of people in communities of color runs deep. Home-based child care as historically been the child care preference of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Therefore, the PFCCAG board of directors also have concerns about the potential for social injustice related to policing FCCLHs. Rules that support authorities to invade the homes of people of color have resulted in cultural trauma and shows a lack of sensitivity towards BIPOC family child care providers. It is imperative that inspectors/investigators receive sensitivity training and have strict protocols to follow when entering unlicensed areas of what is a family child care provider's personal space.

"Punishments for failing to cooperate in an inspection/investigation are punitive. PFCCAG board of directors supports required unannounced visits of the home's child care spaces. Yet in the proposed rule change, inspectors/investigators will be accessing parts of the home other than the designated child care spaces. Family child care providers will expect to accompany those coming into their homes to ensure that the inspector/investigator is supervised, proper procedures are followed, and questions can be answered as they arise. This has implications for the supervision of children in care. Family child care providers may be forced into a catch-22 situation – either comply with the inspector/investigator or supervise the children properly. Failure to do either may result in denial, restriction, or revocation of a license. At a minimum, a finding could occur that negatively impacts the family child care provider simply due to the inspection/investigation itself.

"The proposed rule change does not reflect or address any type of appeal or grievance process. Family child care providers undergoing inspection/investigation need a way to report inappropriate behaviors of inspector/investigators or the results of said inspection/investigation. The proposed rule change does not specify who will inspect/investigate. It is important that family child care providers know who is coming into their homes.

"Georgia licensed family child care providers were asked for their thoughts and questions regarding the proposed rule change. We have included the list as addendum 1. The purpose of this correspondence is for PFCCAG board of directors to notify DECAL of concerns from licensed family child care learning home

providers. These are some unintended consequences to be considered prior to voting on these proposed changes.”

Mr. Brown asked Ms. Obi if there were any other people signed up to speak. She replied that no one else was signed up to speak. Ms. Obi read the comments about proposed rule changes received in the chat box during the meeting. Stacie Neal wrote, “I am a child care provider, and I am against the rule trying to be implemented, 290-2-3-.05, where someone can go upstairs in my home that is not part of the child care area. I keep my valuable things laying around and no one goes into my personal space. I would not feel comfortable with a monitor wandering around in my space without my presence. My day care children nor their parents are allowed upstairs. It’s actually an invasion of my privacy. My upstairs has nothing to do with my family child care program.”

Rudy Moore Holcombe wrote, “I do not like the new rules being enforced and do not think they should be able to go around my home where children that are in my care for day care are not kept. My home is my home and is my personal space. My personal rights feel violated, and that is not how it should be. I want to feel respected.”

As there were no other comments about the proposed rule changes, Mr. Brown closed the public comment period on licensing rules and opened the public hearing for general comments. Ms. Obi read the general comments submitted via the chat box. Stacie Neal wrote, “CAPS will reach more families if they add Working Poor as one of its priority groups.”

Meredith Armistead wrote, “Multiple PK Teachers would like to say that their owners are splitting the \$5000 between the classrooms and doing "who knows what" with the other \$5000 that is supposed to go to the other classroom (s). What is the rule for this \$5000? Is this allowed? Please have the PK consultants email the owners to make sure they understand what the money is for (refurbishment, etc. for each room.” Ms. Armistead added another comment. “Our owner is keeping one box of the pyramid model classroom kit in case one gets messed up. The owner is having the classrooms share the materials. This does not seem OK. [inaudible] We were under the impression that each Pre-K classroom gets its own kit.”

Christie Rowell wrote, “Better pay for our assistant teachers is necessity. You want better quality teachers and classrooms, pay them better. Give the dedicated and veteran assistant teachers the recognition they deserve for staying in this program while earning a poverty level salary. Assistant teachers deserve the same "years of experience" raise that we lead teachers receive. It is not fair to provide that for only us leads and not our assistants. Experience statement: last year we had 17 children in our class. We had almost no behavior issues, no sensory issues, and not students being overwhelmed. This is because we were more available to them and their needs. This year, our class is at 22 and we are struggling each day to meet the needs of each student due to the class size. There is a direct correlation in behavior and emotional issues being on the rise and our class sizes. When are we going to recognize that there is a direct correlation between class sizes and social-emotional behaviors being on the rise?”

Stacy Swenson wrote, “DECAL should put a stop to employers being able to keep 10% of teacher’s salary. If you want the day care centers to get more money, you give them more money, not us. (Most aren’t using it for what it was intended for anyway.) DECAL should make us all state employees that are on a state wide salary step schedule with health and retirement benefits. This pay schedule should not be capped at 22 years. Those still with the program that long already went the first 15 years without any significant pay raises and we STILL stuck with the program. We need retirement. The pay for assistants is shameful. Why would anyone want the stress that comes along with this job when they are paid less than grocery baggers? There is nothing to entice teachers to enter or stay with this program. Pay and benefits must improve. Class size

should be lowered. We can barely even fit 22 students in some of our classrooms and with the increasing behavior problems, it is becoming unmanageable. Not to mention, those in the day care centers don't have the same support staff as public school which makes behavior issues more difficult to handle for these teachers. DECAL is aware that behaviors are getting worse, but seem to think that requiring documenting pro-social behavior is going to help? We need more time to prep for teaching activities and individualization, not spend more time documenting observations to put in a checklist that no one really seems to care about."

As there were no further comments, Mr. Brown closed the public comment period.

10. Committee Reports

Following the public comment periods Mr. Davis called for committee reports. Ms. Beam reported that the Program and Rules Committee heard a presentation about CAPS' Student Parent 2Gen pilot taking place on three Technical College System of Georgia campuses and received updates about CSS, Pre-K and Instructional Supports, and Nutrition projects.

Ms. Morrissey reported that the finance committee heard a more detailed presentation about the budget and expenses. She informed the Board that the finance committee recommended the Board approve the SFY2024 budget.

Ms. Hill reported that Early Head Start Director Megan Fickes gave the QIP Committee an overview of the DECAL Early Head Start Child Care Partnership and reported on some of the program's successes and challenges. The partnership is charged with providing seamless and comprehensive full-day and full-year services that meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Services must accommodate the needs of working families; thus EHS must offer services a minimum of 10 hours per day. Infants and toddlers must receive high-quality early care and learning, and they and their families receive comprehensive support through the program. The service model for the EHS-CCP grant is different from the traditional EHS funding model and was intentionally designed to enhance the quality of child care for infants and toddlers by integrating the additional resources and services that meet HSPPS for a seamless full-day and full-year of comprehensive services. Other children who are also enrolled in classrooms with EHS-CCP children benefit from the enhanced services and support that is made available to the child care partners.

EHS-CCP funds are layered. The first, or foundational layer, is made up of the core child care services that already exist in the child care partner programs. This represents the costs of services that are covered by the child care subsidy/voucher or any other revenue streams that are supporting core child care services. The second level of funding is made up of program-level service and environmental enhancements that are needed to meet EHS requirements. These enhancements, paid by EHS-CCP funding, must directly benefit EHS-CCP-enrolled children but are also expected to benefit other children sharing a classroom or service environment with enrolled children. The third layer is made up of services provided to individual EHS-CCP-enrolled children and their families, such as salaries and benefits for family support workers supporting EHS families, external referrals to health and mental health providers, home visits, and other family support services. EHS-CCP funds cannot be used to provide Layer 3 individual services for children and families not enrolled in the EHS-CCP.

The DECAL EHS-CCP has had notable successes this year. Enrollment has remained steady of 70% to 75% of funded enrollment, and the benchmark for enrollment of children with disabilities (10% of funded enrollment) was met for the 2021-2022 program year. From spring to summer of this year children were observed to make significant progress. There was a 13% increase (from 73% to 86%) of children meeting or

exceeding expectations for physical skills, and children continued to meet or exceed (85% and above) in the areas of cognitive skills, literacy, and math. The program also faces challenges. Child care partners sometimes struggle to maintain full staffing, and that presents a challenge to maintaining full enrollment. Health and safety improvement plans are being implemented at child care sites in response to concerns. There was one child incident in July that is being reviewed with the Office of Head Start (OHS).

Ms. Fickes shared some recent updates. The policy manual is in the final stages of editing and will be ready for distribution in September. DECAL EHS CCP was chosen to participate in an OHS monitoring feasibility study in September and October. DECAL EHS CCP will be submitting a formal carry over request in the upcoming months for the 2021-2022 program year. The 2020-2021 Carryover request submitted in Nov 21 has not yet been awarded.

11. Rule Changes

Mr. Davis thanked the Committees for their reports. At 1:30 p.m. he asked if there was any further discussion about proposed licensing rule changes for child care learning centers, Rule Chapter 591-1-1. Hearing no further discussion, he asked for a motion to approve the rule changes as proposed. Ms. Howell made a motion, and Ms. Hill seconded. The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendments to Rule 591-1-1.02-Definitions, Rule 591-1-1.07-Children's Health, Rule 591-1-1.08-Children's Records, Rule 591-1-1.09-Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks, Rule 591-1-1.29-Required Reporting, Rule 591-1-1.37-Inspections and Investigations, and Rule 591-1-1.38 Enforcement and Adverse Actions. Mr. Davis asked if there was any further discussion about the proposed licensing rule changes for family child care learning homes, Rule Chapter 290-2-3. Hearing none, he asked for a motion and a second to approve the rule changes as proposed. Ms. Zisook made a motion, and Ms. Harper seconded. The Board unanimously approved the proposed amendments to Rule 290-2-3-.03-Definitions, Rule 290-2-3-.05-Inspections and Investigations, Rule 290-2-3-.08-Children's Records, Rule 290-2-3-.14-Reporting, Rule 290-2-3-.15-Enforcement and Adverse Actions, and Rule 290-2-3-.21-Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks.

12. Budget

Mr. Davis asked if there was any further discussion about the proposed SFY2024 budget presented by Mr. Ringsrud. Because the Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the proposed budget, no motion to approve the budget was required, and the budget was approved unanimously. Mr. Davis asked for a motion to approve the amended SFY2023 budget. Ms. Harper moved to approve, and Ms. Howell seconded. The Board approved the amended SFY2023 budget unanimously.

13. Dates for 2023 Board Meetings

Mr. Davis presented the proposed Board meeting dates for 2023: February 16, May 18, August 24, and November 16, and asked if there was any discussion by the Board. Ms. Zisook noted that she would be out of town on February 16. There was no further discussion, and Mr. Davis called for a motion to approve the proposed dates. Ms. Hill made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Morrissey. The Board approved the proposed dates unanimously.

14. Adjournment

At 1:36 p.m. Mr. Davis announced the date of the next meeting, November 17, and adjourned the meeting.

Alva Brock 11/16/22

Vice Board Chair, Signature

Date

Kathy B. Howell 11/16/22

Board Secretary, Signature

Date