Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

February 20, 2014
Inspiration
Board Member Updates

Board members report on their recent DECAL-related activities in their districts.
Commissioner’s Update

Bobby Cagle
Commissioner
Introduction of New Staff Member

- Kristen Bernhard
- Deputy Commissioner for System Reform
- Will manage Early Learning Challenge grant
- Previously served as Governor Deal’s Education Policy Advisor
  - Governor’s lead for K-12 Race to the Top Grant
  - Served as a member of the Georgia Alliance of Education Agency Heads
- Also previously served as Policy Assistant for Governor Sonny Perdue
Report on Three Areas of Focus

- Health and Safety Compliance
- Employee Feedback
- Stakeholder Engagement
## Adverse Action Tracking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERSE ACTIONS</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued Non-Comp</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident/Injury</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1009</strong></td>
<td><strong>269</strong></td>
<td><strong>229</strong></td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
<td><strong>1008%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Amounts</td>
<td>$277,993</td>
<td>$65,947</td>
<td>$63,853</td>
<td>$35,417</td>
<td><strong>367%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Closures</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><strong>600%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revocations</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>337%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus: Employee Input

Feedback Collection Methods
- 2013 Employee Survey
- Chats with the Commissioner (included 70% of DECAL employees)
- AJC Top Places to Work Survey

Continued Activities for 2014
- 2014 Employee Survey
- Chats with the Commissioner (will resume with 30% who have not previously participated)
Responding to Employee Input

- Analyzing information gathered from surveys
- Categorizing information
- Identifying themes/areas of strength and areas to improve
- Work with DECAL leadership and Employee Advisory Group to address areas that need to improve
- Responding immediately on some items
Areas of Strength and Areas to Improve

Themes/areas of strength
- “I am proud of our achievements as an organization.”
- “Generally speaking, DECAL is headed in the right direction.”
- Responsiveness of Finance, HR, and IT units rated high
- Adequacy, frequency, and quality of agency communication rated high

Themes/areas to improve
- Pay raises needed
- Heavy workloads/multiple vacancies
- Need more alignment between divisions within the agency
Focus: Stakeholder Engagement

In a letter to stakeholders: “You play an important role by ensuring that the community has a voice in influencing policy priorities and the direction of DECAL’s work for Georgia’s youngest learners.”

In a statement to DECAL staff: “I believe that the people most impacted by policies and regulations should have input into what those policies and regulations are.”

Commissioner Bobby Cagle
Focus on Stakeholder Engagement (continued)

WHY?

- Policy is more effective when informed by experience of people/organizations doing the work
- Stakeholders provide a clearer perspective of the “health” of Georgia’s statewide early care and education system
- Fulfills the state’s obligation to engage in an open exchange with Georgia’s citizens and to operate with transparency
- Assists in compliance with Georgia’s Administrative Procedures Act
Activities to Engage Stakeholders

- Initiated Stakeholder Engagement Network
- Conduct webinars on specific, timely issues (safe sleep, dangers of leaving children in vehicles, Pre-K changes, etc.) to communicate information and solicit responses/comments from stakeholders
- Host regional community meetings
- Convene task forces
Questions & Comments from Board
Finance, Nutrition, & Legislative Update

Ray Higgins
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration
## Finance Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 As of December 31th</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Expenditures*</th>
<th>Remaining Balance</th>
<th>50% Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BY PROGRAMS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Services</td>
<td>230,872,203.00</td>
<td>129,861,716.72</td>
<td>101,010,486.28</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K + (HS &amp; ES)</td>
<td>312,336,030.00</td>
<td>152,510,966.23</td>
<td>159,825,063.77</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Initiatives</td>
<td>25,271,338.00</td>
<td>20,947,998.09</td>
<td>4,323,339.91</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>122,000,000.00</td>
<td>65,855,311.85</td>
<td>56,144,688.15</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>690,479,571.00</td>
<td>369,175,992.89</td>
<td>321,303,578.11</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BY FUNDING SOURCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State General</td>
<td>55,451,852.00</td>
<td>16,543,278.54</td>
<td>38,908,573.46</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Lottery</td>
<td>312,173,630.00</td>
<td>152,413,268.82</td>
<td>159,760,361.18</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>322,714,089.00</td>
<td>200,100,484.33</td>
<td>122,613,604.67</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>140,000.00</td>
<td>118,961.20</td>
<td>21,038.80</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds</td>
<td>690,479,571.00</td>
<td>369,175,992.89</td>
<td>321,303,578.11</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes encumbrances.
Outreach Strategies

- Partnership with Georgia Food Bank Association to offer mini grants up to $20,000 for sponsors to:
  - Serve more meals or establish more sites
  - Implement weekend backpack programs
  - Implement mobile feeding sites in targeted counties

- Partnership with USDA Rural Development to establish feeding sites at approved housing developments in Georgia’s Strike Force Counties (also identified as DECAL’s targeted counties)

- Partnership with Governor’s Grade Level Reading Campaign to establish feeding sites at local libraries offering summer reading programs
DECAL Emergency Preparation Efforts

Keith D. Bostick, L.C.S.W.
Deputy Commissioner for Programs
DECAL Emergency Preparation Efforts

DECAL’s PLEDGE to PREPARE

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
www.decal.ga.gov
DECAL Emergency Preparation Efforts

What we learned

- DECAL has a caring, supportive, and committed staff
- The need to develop an agency-wide DECAL Emergency Preparation System and Practice that applies to all types and levels of emergencies
- Establish greater protocols to ensure the health and safety of our providers and stakeholders
DECAL Emergency Preparation Efforts

What we will do moving forward

- Establish a DECAL Emergency Preparation Committee (representing all DECAL divisions)
- Develop a DECAL Staff/Business Continuity Plan

The health and safety of children and your staff are the most important factors to consider when deciding to close or stay open.
What we will do moving forward

Four areas to be developed for organizational emergency preparedness:

- Staff
- Operations
- Providers/Stakeholders
- Staff/Business Continuity
Child Care Services Update

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services
Relating to Transportation
Purpose of Revising Transportation Rules

- To simplify and provide clarification in language
- To simplify documentation procedures in accounting for the transportation of children without compromising safety and protection
- To reorganize, group similar rules, and re-number rule sections
Proposed Changes Related to Policies

- Require two checks of vehicle regardless of alarm
- Change wording to require that second check be done by another staff person
- Clarify time frame for when second check should be completed
- Explain transportation requirements for transportation services being provided “on behalf of” a facility
Proposed Changes Related to Policies (continued)

- New training requirement
  - For director and staff involved in transporting children
  - Require two hours of training on transportation forms and procedures
- Clarify rule to require that emergency medical information be kept on vehicles when transporting children (Family Day Care Homes)
Proposed Changes to Forms/Documentation Requirements

- Require a separate passenger checklist for each vehicle being used on the same trip (e.g., field trip)
- Strengthen load/unload documentation requirements to require that every child listed on the checklist is accounted for (e.g., marking with “A” for Absent; documenting when a parent takes the child home; etc.)
- Change wording of *Arrival Time* to *Load/Unload Time*
- Add comment boxes on forms for extenuating circumstances and/or changes in practice
Proposed Changes to Forms/Documentation Requirements

The following will be removed from forms:

- Indication for type of restraint used
- Authorized persons to release to (Required on transportation agreement, which is already required to be kept in vehicle)
- Drop-off & pick-up times at the top of the forms
- Requirement for full name signature
- Requirement for initials to verify arrival/departure times
- Requirement to document who the checklist was turned in to
- Requirement to identify person responsible for the checklist
- Indication if vehicle has an alarm
# School Transportation Form - Before

*New form completed for each route*

**School Transportation Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name:</th>
<th>________________</th>
<th>Phone #:</th>
<th>Driver Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pick-up Location &amp; Time</th>
<th>Delivery Location &amp; Time</th>
<th>Person to Receive Child</th>
<th>Staff Responsible for Checklist:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vehicle has child safety alarm device: YES NO

## School Transportation Plan

(Use one form per school)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s First &amp; Last Name</th>
<th>Load/Unload</th>
<th>Absent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MON AM PM</td>
<td>TUES AM PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WED AM PM</td>
<td>THURS AM PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRI AM PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Departure Time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrival Time</th>
<th>Staff initials</th>
<th>Return Time</th>
<th>Staff initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIRST CHECK**

Signature of staff on vehicle-no child left:

**SECOND CHECK**

If NO ALARM Signature of staff not on vehicle -no child left:

If applicable, signature of staff who reported by phone that vehicle checked:

If applicable, name of person reported to:

Name of Person Checklist turned in to:
# School Transportation Form - After

*New form completed for each route*

**Facility Name:** ____________  **Phone #:** ____________  **Staff on Vehicle:** ____________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Tag Number</th>
<th>Pick-up Location</th>
<th>Delivery Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Transportation Plan**
(Use one form per school)

**Child's First & Last Name**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Transportation Plan</th>
<th>Mark for each child:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong></td>
<td>√= Load/Unload</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIRST CHECK**
Signature of staff - no child left: ____________

**SECOND CHECK**
Signature of staff - no child left: ____________

| If applicable, signature of staff who reported by phone that vehicle checked: |
| If applicable, name of person reported to: |
| MON | AM | PM |
| TUE | AM | PM |
| WED | AM | PM |
| THU | AM | PM |
| FRI | AM | PM |

**COMMENT BOX:**

**Week of:** ____________

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Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

[www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov)
Legal Update

Ira Sudman
Chief Legal Officer
Initial Criminal Record Check Statistics
(1/1/14 - 2/16/14)

Completed Applications (1,515)

- Satisfactory (1,267)
- Unsatisfactory (6)
- Pending (242)
Criminal Records Check by Facility Type 
(1/1/14 - 2/16/14)

- **Child Care Learning Centers** – 1,322 applications completed
- **Family Day Care Homes** – 87 applications completed
- **Group Day Care Homes** – 20 applications completed
- **Other facility types** – 86 applications completed
Criminal Records Check Timeliness
(1/1/14 - 2/14/14)

Time to Process Applications

- Processed in 1 day: 316
- Processed in 2 days: 233
- Processed in 3 days: 242
- Process time > three days: 482

Average Time to Process Application = 3.5 days
Head Start Update

Janice Haker
Head Start State Collaboration Director
Head Start Collaboration Office

Sequestration Update

- Head Start funded to serve 25,749 children
- Early Head Start funded to serve 2,383 children
- 31 Grantees in Georgia
- Refund amounts to Head Start/Early Head Start
- Process for refunding not yet determined
Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant

- Purpose: increase access to high quality programs for high needs children
- $500,000,000 for state and local agencies, for profit and not-for-profit child care programs
- Grants currently open for Public Comment
- Anticipate final proposal format summer 2014
- Awards made by December 31, 2014; encumbered by March 15, 2015
- Must meet Early Head Start Performance Standards
- Partnerships include family and center child care, Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)
Other Initiatives

- Oral Health study through Department of Public Health
- Head Start Annual Spring Conference May 2014 St. Simons, GA (Members of board invited to attend)
- School Readiness
- Parent Engagement
- Home Visiting Conference (Great Start Georgia) July 28, 2014
BREAK

(10 minutes)
Georgia’s Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge

Kristin Bernhard
Deputy Commissioner for System Reform
Background Information

Early Learning Challenge grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grant provides funding for states to create an early learning agenda that builds and strengthens existing early learning and development systems.
Background Information (continued)

The grant required states to detail how they will:

- Improve program quality and outcomes for young children.
- Increase the number of children with high needs attending high-quality early learning and development programs.
- Help close the achievement gap between children with high needs and their peers by supporting efforts to increase kindergarten readiness.
“We must make a concerted effort to increase the percentage of children reading at grade level by the completion of third grade...Students must ‘learn to read’ in order to be able to ‘read to learn’ and when we fail to invest in our youngest students, we are forced to spend money on remediation for the remainder of their academic careers.”
Georgia’s Award

- Georgia received **$51.7M** over the four-year grant period.
- Georgia’s application received the second highest score among 16 applicants. Other winning states included Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, New Jersey and Vermont.
- Georgia’s application was a culmination of what the state has done in early care and education and a plan for what the state will do to improve and to increase access to high quality early care and education.
  - The two programs most highlighted as proof of Georgia’s commitment to early education were Georgia’s Pre-K Program and Quality Rated.
Georgia’s Application: Created through Collaboration

The following agencies serving Georgia’s children and families contributed to and will help implement the grant:

- Governor Nathan Deal’s Office
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Lead Agency)
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Georgia Department of Human Services
- Governor’s Office for Children and Families
- Georgia Public Broadcasting
- Georgia Professional Standards Commission
- Governor’s Office of Student Achievement
- Technical College System of Georgia
- University System of Georgia
- Alliance of Education Agency Heads
- Georgia’s Children’s Cabinet
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership
Georgia’s Application

Details twelve projects divided into five sections:
- Successful State Systems
- High-Quality, Accountable Programs
- Promoting Early Learning Outcomes
- Great Workforce
- Measuring Outcomes and Progress

Focuses on four strategies to achieve the grant’s goals:
- **Access** to high-quality opportunities
- **Investment** in early childhood educators and high-quality programs
- **Integration** across programs and services
- **Measurement** and data capacity expanded
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successful State Systems</th>
<th>High-Quality, Accountable Programs</th>
<th>Promoting Early Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Great Workforce</th>
<th>Measuring Outcomes and Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1: Grant Management</td>
<td>Project 3: Quality Rated Access and Availability</td>
<td>Project 5: Early Learning and Development Standards</td>
<td>Project 9: Workforce Knowledge and Competencies</td>
<td>Project 6: Comprehensive Assessment System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 7: Statewide Family Engagement and Community Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 11: Kindergarten Entry Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 8: Center-Based Home Visitation and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 12: Unified Data Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2: Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)</td>
<td>Project 4: Quality Rated Validation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project 10: Supporting Early Educators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grant Oversight
Grant Governance

The governance of Georgia’s early learning and development system is anchored in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Georgia is one of three states with a department of state government dedicated solely to the early learning needs of children ages birth to five, their families, and the professionals who serve them.
## Key Partners in Governance

| **Lead Agency** | • DECAL  
|                 | • Deputy Commissioner for System Reform |
| **Leadership Advisory** | • Georgia Children’s Cabinet (Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care)  
|                 | • Alliance of Education Agency Heads |
| **Advisory Committee** | • ELC Advisory Committee  
|                 | • Includes representatives from each participating state agency, philanthropic partners, the workforce, and families |
| **Advisory Subcommittees** | • ELC Advisory Subcommittees  
| • Access  
| • Investment  
| • Integration  
| • Measurement | • Four advisory committees, composed of families, stakeholders, ELD educators, and others |
ELD System Governance Framework

- Georgia’s Children’s Cabinet/State Advisory Council (Birth to College)
  - Includes Participating State Agencies defined in the grant; members of SAC required by Head Start Reauthorization; and other agencies that serve Georgia’s children and families.

- Board of Early Care and Learning

- GA Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Lead Agency RTT-ELC
  - Georgia’s Pre-K Program
  - Child Care Licensing
  - TQRIS/Quality Rated
  - Head Start State Collaboration Office
  - Georgia Program for Infant and Toddler Care
  - Child Care and Development Fund (includes child care subsidies; CCR&Rs; School-Age Care; Infant/Toddler)
  - CACFP/SFSP
  - Quest for Quality Inclusion
  - (Proposed in grant) Home Visiting Based in ELD Programs

- RTT ELC Advisory Committee
  - 1 Grant Manager, 1 Research Specialist, 1 Grant Liaison,
  - One member per PSA, United Way, GEEARS, 2 family representatives, 2 ELD providers

- 4 RTT ELC Subcommittees
  - (ACCESS; INVESTMENT; INTEGRATION; MEASUREMENT)
  - Membership composed of families, stakeholders, ELD educators, ELC Grant Manager, and ELC Grant Liaison

- Alliance of Education Agency Heads (AEAH) (P-20 System)
  - Department of Early Care and Learning
  - Department of Education
  - Board of Regents
  - Technical College System of Georgia
  - Student Finance Commission
  - Professional Standards Commission
  - Governor’s Office of Student Achievement

Key:
- Reports to
- Advises
Detailed Project Overview
Successful State Systems
Grant Management

Purpose: Oversee implementation of Georgia’s Early Learning Challenge Agenda

Activities:

- Oversee day-to-day activities and contracts related to the grant
- Ensure that projects and activities are interconnected and align with other key initiatives across agencies and state priorities
- Manage stakeholder engagement and communication across projects

Requested ELC Funding: $1.6M
Successful State Systems
Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)

Purpose: Align supports, activities, and services in geographical areas with large numbers or high percentages of children with high needs and improve infrastructure for high-quality early learning programs

Activities:

- Offer increased incentives for offering and selecting high-quality early learning environments
- Work with community leaders to improve early childhood infrastructure and increase economic opportunities
- Utilize Georgia’s existing tax incentives based on job creation to encourage high quality providers to open in E³Zs

Requested ELC Funding: $2.5M
High Quality, Accountable Programs
Quality Rated Validation

Purpose: Expand research and data activities that will evaluate current and future efforts

Activities:
- Implement additional Quality Rated validation activities
- Includes research studies that measure statewide quality and the impact of Quality Rated on children’s development and growth

ELC Funding Requested: $2.2M
High Quality, Accountable Programs
Quality Rated Access & Availability

Purpose: Expand access to high-quality early education programs by creating new incentives for providers to raise quality and for parents to choose quality

Activities:
- Revise Quality Rated standards based on results of validation project
- Drastically increase the number of programs participating in Quality Rated
- Increase the number of families choosing higher quality programs by decreasing family co-pays
- Create a grant program that pays higher rates to programs offering the highest level of care
- Expand access to a high-quality Summer Transition Program for rising Pre-K students and rising Kindergartners

Requested ELC Funding: $24.9M
Promoting Early Learning Outcomes

Early Learning and Development Standards

Purpose: Ensure that Georgia’s research-based early learning and development standards are appropriately used statewide in early learning programs.

Activities:
- Expand the comprehensive roll-out of the newly launched Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)
- Develop training and resources for all stakeholders
- Create professional development tools for early childhood educators for working with English Language Learners

ELC Funding Requested: $2.1M
Promoting Early Learning Outcomes
Family Engagement

Purpose: Increase and improve early education family engagement opportunities across the state

Activities:
- Revise Quality Rated Family Engagement Standards
- Expand GELDS awareness campaign to families through partnerships with local Family Connection Partnership and Parent to Parent organizations

ELC Funding Requested: $408,677
Promoting Early Learning Outcomes
Home Visitation

Purpose: Implement an early childhood systems of care framework in child care centers with home visitation as a major service strategy

Activities:
- Expand Georgia’s home visiting program, Great Start Georgia, by creating home visiting and family engagement hubs in 3-star child care centers in each E³Z
- Provide targeted professional development to Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers through Head Start and Early Head Start

ELC Funding Requested: $211,904
Great Workforce
Workforce Knowledge and Competencies

Purpose: Improve and expand Georgia’s Workforce Knowledge and Competency (WKC) Framework

Activities:
- Revise Georgia’s WKC Framework
- Review post-secondary early learning and development coursework to ensure alignment to the WKC Framework and the GELDS
- Increase articulation among institutions of higher learning to increase student success and persistence in achieving advanced credentials in early childhood education

Requested ELC Funding: $112,000
Great Workforce  
Supporting Early Educators

Purpose: Create and align projects and initiatives that will continue to strengthen and further professionalize Georgia’s early childhood education workforce

Activities:
- Expand SCHOLARSHIPS and INCENTIVES programs to increase the number of early childhood educators moving along a knowledge and career pathway
- Implement the Georgia Professional Development Hierarchy to provide professional development on using standards, improving teacher-child interactions, and aligning instruction with formative assessments

Requested ELC Funding: $3.8M
Measuring Outcomes & Progress

Comprehensive Assessment

Purpose: Identify a set of common child assessments with professional development and policy guidelines for use

Activities:
- Create a Task Force for Comprehensive Assessment to recommend ways to build on the assessment systems in Georgia’s Pre-K Program and Quality Rated
- Contract with experts to review and align various assessment methods with the GELDS
- Incorporate assessments in other early learning and development programs

ELC Funding Requested: $51,450
Measuring Outcomes & Progress
Kindergarten Entry Assessment

Purpose: Implement a formative assessment that will be conducted during the first six weeks of children’s Kindergarten experience so each student receives a measurement of Kindergarten readiness that teachers can use to individualize instruction

Activities

Augment Georgia’s current formative assessment to implement a Kindergarten entry profile

ELC Funding Requested: $5M
Measuring Outcomes & Progress
Unified Data Systems

Purpose: Expand the quality of data collected on children, programs, and educators

Activities:
- Pool additional, existing data feeds from participating state agencies to expand the Cross Agency Child Data System
- Create a web portal for providers to enter and use data to streamline program processes and reduce processing time
- Develop tools and resources to make data more readily available at the child and program level

Requested ELC Funding: $3M
What’s Next?
Next Steps

Submit an overall Scope of Work that includes an aggressive timeline and specific deliverables and milestones to accomplish the projects and tasks identified in our application to U.S. DOE and HHS by March 31st

- U.S. DOE and HHS have three months to approve Georgia’s Scope of Work after it is submitted

Can begin implementing projects and expending funds (up to 10%) before the Scope of Work is approved

Currently working with each Participating State Agency to finalize agency scopes of work, interagency agreements, and budgets

Scopes of Work from partner agencies due to DECAL by March 1st
And then...full implementation!
Lunch
(Served in Entry Area)

Committee Meetings

Programs – Hickory
Budget/Finance – Willow
Ethics – Cypress

(The public is welcome to attend/observe committee meetings but may not participate in the committee’s discussion.)
Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

PUBLIC HEARING

February 20, 2014
Board Action on:

Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, Rule Chapter 591-1-1

Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.36
Board Action on:

*Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes,*
Rule Chapter 290-2-1

Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-1-11
Proposed Adoption of Rule 290-2-1-.21
Board Action on:

*Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes, Rule Chapter 290-2-3*

Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.11
Remaining Board Meeting Dates 2014

May 22, 2014
August 21, 2014
November 13, 2014

Remember the legislative reception
hosted by Voices for Georgia’s Children
Thursday, February 27, 2014
Georgia Freight Depot