Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

February 18, 2016
Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 2-18-16 agenda
- Approve 11-12-15 minutes
Inspiration
Susan Harper
Building the Foundation...
Board Member Updates

Board members report on their recent DECAL-related activities in their districts.
2014 CFR Annual Report Data Overview

Trebor Randle
Special Agent In Charge, G.B.I.
All Reviewed Child Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=503)

- Sleep-Related *: 158
- Motor Vehicle Crash: 90
- Drown: 47
- Asphyxia: 28
- Undetermined: 15
- Poison: 13
- Exposure: 12
- Sleep-Related *: 7
- Poison: 6
- Exposure: 2
All Reviewed Deaths by Gender, GA, 2014 (N=503)

Male: 324
Female: 179
All Reviewed Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, GA, 2014 (N=503)
LEADING THREE CAUSES

- INFANT SLEEP-RELATED
- MEDICAL
- MOTOR VEHICLE-RELATED
Sleep-Related Infant Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=158)

- 96 Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) with prominent risk factors (bed sharing, prone, sleep items)

- 52 Asphyxia (e.g., suffocation, overlay, positional asphyxia)

- 8 SUID Medical (medical conditions present/medical cause and manner of death; sleep environmental factors could have contributed to the death)

- 2 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) diagnosis of exclusion when no other risk factors are identified
Sleep-Related Infant Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=158)

- 61% were African-American; 31% were non-Hispanic Whites; 6% percent were Hispanic; and 2% were Multi-race

- Males accounted for 59% (93) 65 females

- 66% of the deaths were among infants less than four months old (N=158)

- 60% of the deaths occurred in an adult bed; 21% occurred in a crib or bassinette (N=158)

- When known, 52 infants were found on their back; 61 were on their stomach (N=153)

- When known, 65% of the deaths involved bed sharing (N=153)
Medical Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=90)

- Males accounted for 62% of all medical deaths (56); there were 34 female deaths
- African-American children accounted for 61% of all medical deaths (55) compared to a combined total of 35 White, Hispanic, Multi-race and Other race children
- Leading causes include:
  - Cardiovascular (21)
  - Pneumonia (14)
  - Asthma (9)
  - Neurological/Seizure Disorder (6)
Motor Vehicle-Related Deaths, GA, 2014 (N=79)

- Males comprised 63% of all reviewed MVC deaths (50)
- 33 African-American, 41 White, 4 Hispanic, 1 Other race
- Children ages 15 to 17 accounted for almost half (43%) of all reviewed MVC deaths
- 44% of all reviewed MVC deaths were passengers (35)
- There were 23 pedestrian deaths; 8 were ages 15-17; 7 were ages 1-4; and 8 were ages 5-14
- There were 16 driver deaths; 13 were ages 15-17; and 3 were ages 10-14
We owe it to them to do SOMETHING! INDIVIDUALLY & COLLECTIVELY

Talk with our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even STRANGERS about:

- Infant Safe Sleep
- Gun Safety
- Water Safety
- Fire Safety
- Motor Vehicle Safety
THANK YOU!!

Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Child Fatality Review Division
3121 Panthersville Rd.
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 270-8714 Office
www.gbi.ga.gov/cfr
Commissioner’s Update

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner
Governor’s Budget Recommendations

FY 2017: $36.5M increase in lottery funds for Pre-K
- New compensation model for Pre-K lead teachers
- Increase salary for Pre-K assistant teachers
- Increase funds for benefits for teachers
- Additional funds for 3% increase for Pre-K lead and assistant teachers
Pre-K Teachers of the Year

- Received 49 applications (29 private; 20 local school systems)
- Review process spring/summer
- External reviewers
  - Technical College System of Georgia
  - GaDOE
  - United Way
  - Voices for Georgia’s Children
  - Best Practices
- Eligible winners must be teaching in Georgia’s Pre-K Program in 2017 school year
Pre-K Teachers of the Year (continued)

Winners announced fall 2016
- One teacher employed by private provider
- One teacher employed by local school system

Winners
- Receive personal cash award
- Receive cash for classroom
- Attend award ceremony (tentatively w/First Lady)
- Private tour of Governor’s Mansion
- Participate in visits to Pre-K classes with First Lady
- Opportunities to speak to other Pre-K teachers

Awards funded by private philanthropic partner
Exciting New Staff Member
Welcome CALi!
CALi Contest

- Pre-K classes asked to submit photos inviting CALi to visit
- Winner determined by drawing
- Winning classroom will receive visit from CALi and Commissioner Jacobs
No bones about it, we are the Top Dogs!
We would love to “Paws” our class

Mrs. Garcia’s & Mrs. Gordon’s Pre-K Class

Long County High School

to have Cali stop by and visit!
Hey, Cali Pre-K 5
Please come visit Center 55
Future Vets
Helping others who feel “ruff” and Cali
Ms. Erica's Bulldogs at Springfield Elementary would love to meet you CALi and Commissioner Amy M Jacobs. We'll have a tail wagging good time!
CALi Contest Winner: White Oak Learning Academy
Dawsonville, GA
Opportunities to Participate

Read Across Georgia
- Held in March; specific events TBD

Children’s Day at the Capitol
- Sponsored by Voices for Georgia’s Children
- March 8, 2016
- 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (most activity around 11 a.m.)
- State Capitol, South Wing
- No official program but DECAL will have table
Questions & Comments from Board
Finance and Administration Update

Ray Higgins
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration
## FY 2016 Summary

Data as of Dec. 31 | Budget | Expenditures* | Remaining Balance | % Remaining
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**BY PROGRAMS**
Child Care Services | $258,637,214 | $124,264,043 | $134,373,171 | 52%
Pre-K + (Head Start) | $321,470,348 | $152,864,359 | $168,605,989 | 52%
Quality Initiatives | $37,512,775 | $28,032,604 | $9,480,171 | 25%
Nutrition | $138,000,000 | $75,790,511 | $62,209,489 | 45%
**Total Expenses** | **$755,620,337** | **$380,951,517** | **$374,668,820** | **50%**

**BY FUNDING SOURCE**

State General | $55,527,513 | $11,244,042 | $44,283,471 | 80%
State Lottery | $321,295,348 | $152,762,080 | $168,533,268 | 52%
Federal | $378,637,476 | $216,874,572 | $161,762,904 | 43%
Other | $160,000 | $70,823 | $89,177 | 56%
**Total Funds** | **$755,620,337** | **$380,951,517** | **$374,668,820** | **50%**

* Includes encumbrances.
Legislative Update
System Reform Update

Kristin Bernhard
Deputy Commissioner for System Reform
### Quality Rated by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Learning Center</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>53.59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Learning Home</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>37.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,496</td>
<td>41.05%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Quality Rated by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rated</th>
<th>One Star</th>
<th>Two Star</th>
<th>Three Star</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Learning Center</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Learning Home</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>310</strong></td>
<td><strong>426</strong></td>
<td><strong>172</strong></td>
<td><strong>908</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality Rated Manual Changes

Key changes include:

- Stand alone school-age care programs are eligible to submit a Quality Rated portfolio.
- For a standard to be marked as complete in the online Quality Rated portfolio, the child care program must upload evidence that the standard has been met.

The current version of the Quality Rated Program Manual is available at www.qualityrated.decal.ga.gov.
# Quality Rated Marketing Campaign

## Timeline of Next Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2015</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prepare for focus groups and survey</td>
<td>• Research and survey conducted</td>
<td>• Provide analysis of findings</td>
<td>• Creative pre-production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Information analyzed</td>
<td>• Recommendations developed</td>
<td>• Pay-per-click advertising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Website architecture and site map development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Website design</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>July</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Creative production, i.e., do the shooting</td>
<td>• Production editing</td>
<td>• Launch</td>
<td>• Advertising media begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Media outreach</td>
<td>• Guerilla marketing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Website development and testing</td>
<td>• Social media</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Collateral development</td>
<td>• Partnership outreach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Spokesperson training</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Head Start Update

Janice Haker
Head Start State Collaboration Director
Projects

Attendance
- Response from 19 of 30 Head Start agencies
  - Eight programs decreased absenteeism (range from 2% to 27%)
  - Five EHS programs decreased (range from 4% to 16%)
- NHSA published blog on attendance project

Toxic Stress
- Two pilot programs (McIntosh Trail, Easter Seals)
- Needs Assessment for staff in February
- Status of grant
National Head Start Association Conference

- NHSA Conference
  - Presented on longitudinal data systems
  - Verification of FERPA regarding our procedures for compliance

- Foster Care
  - Memo from Executive Director Cagle to DFCS staff regarding enrollment of children in foster care
Head Start Quality Rated

- 41% of all HS centers participating
  - 22% rated one star (increase of 6%)
  - 52% rated two stars (increase of 8%)
  - 26% rated three stars (decrease of 13%)
BREAK

(15 minutes)
Child Care Services Update

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services
Overview
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
State Plan for Georgia
FFY 2016-2018
CCDF History

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) first authorized in 1990 under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act

Amended and reauthorized in 1996 and in 2014

Federal fiscal year 2014, CCDF provided $5.3 billion to states, territories, and tribes.

Georgia received over $193 million in fiscal year 2015.
Purposes Identified in 2014 Reauthorization

- Promote self-sufficiency for low income families
- Promote involvement by parents and families in the development of their children in child care settings
- Improve the overall quality of child care services and programs
- Increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high quality child care settings
Focus of 2014 Reauthorization

“Historic re-envisioning” of the law that includes new requirements related to:

- Health and safety standards
- Eligibility policies
- Quality improvement efforts
- Information provided to families about child care and child development
- Professional development

Georgia already meets many of the new requirements.
State Plan Logistics

- Due on March 1, 2016
- Covers the period from 6/1/2016 - 9/30/2018
- Current draft is posted at:
- Public hearings held January 27-30, 2016
  - Public comments were received through February 5
  - Public comment period now closed
State Plan Organization

State Plan organized into the following sections:

- CCDF Leadership and Coordination
- Family Engagement
- Financial Assistance to Families
- Equal Access to High Quality Child Care
- Standards and Monitoring Processes around Health and Safety
- Early Education Workforce
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Grantee Accountability

Following slides identify only items in each section of Georgia’s plan that are different from the state’s previous plan.
CCDF Leadership and Coordination

- Implement additional requirements around disaster preparedness for all child care programs that receive CCDF dollars
- Offer new disaster preparedness resources prepared by DECAL’s Child Care Services division to all providers
- Expand collaborative efforts with appropriate federal, state, and local programs
Family Engagement

- Require child care programs to provide information on developmental screening services
- Provide additional information to the public about child care programs licensed by the state or receiving CCDF funds
- Provide additional information to the public about incidents resulting in serious injury, death, and child abuse in child care settings
Financial Assistance to Families

- Raise subsidy rates to the 50\(^{th}\) percentile for all providers
- Increase the tiered bonus percentage to 5\%, 10\%, and 25\% for one, two, and three star Quality Rated providers
- Increase income eligibility thresholds
- Reduce the family fee portion of care
Financial Assistance to Families (continued)

Priority groups:
- TANF applicants/recipients
- Children in DFCS custody
- Children with special needs
- Children with Child Protective Services involvement
- Minor parents
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Court ordered supervision cases
- Pre-K students who need before or after school services
- Victims of state or federally declared natural disasters
- Victims of domestic violence
- Homeless populations
Equal Access to High Quality Care

- Implement new payment and funding models
  - Offer grants to providers to serve a certain number of child care subsidy eligible children
  - Programs agree to meet higher standards of quality and thereby receive additional funds and supports

- Develop new research methodologies to:
  - Estimate the true cost of care
  - Determine underserved areas
  - Measure the level of access to high quality care for families receiving CCDF
Standards and Monitoring Processes around Health and Safety

- Require license-exempt programs that receive CCDF funds to:
  - Receive additional monitoring from DECAL
  - Submit more reports to DECAL to ensure accountability
  - Undergo the same criminal background checks as licensed providers

- Require increased training on key health and safety topics that must be completed within the first 90 days of hire

- Expand current background checks
Early Education Workforce

- Increase professional development offered to programs about meeting children’s social and emotional needs
- Increase training offered to programs serving children with disabilities, dual language learners, and children who are homeless
- Pilot new funding models for infant and toddler classrooms
- Provide professional development to help program owners and directors strengthen their business practices
Continuous Quality Improvement

- Improve infant and toddler care by utilizing current infant toddler specialists to support programs in improving their Quality Rated star ratings
- Expand evaluation methods for infant and toddler supports
Grantee Accountability

- Enhance sub-recipient monitoring procedures
- Revise processes related to identifying overpayments based on the continuity of care approach articulated in reauthorization
Summary of Public Comments

- Received formal comments from many stakeholder organizations
- Commended DECAL’s decisions to:
  - Increase income eligibility limits
  - Decrease co-payments for families
  - Increase subsidy payment rates
- Concerned about decrease in number of families served due to lack of additional funding
- Pleased with increased oversight of license-exempt programs
Upcoming Board Vote - May 12, 2016

- Granted permission to write/revise rules for the new Enforcement Compliance System at November meeting
- Proposed timeframe for enforcement/compliance rule revision process:
  - Post proposed rules April 2016
  - Hold 30-day public comment period from April through early May 2016
  - Conduct public hearing and board vote on new rules on May 12, 2016
- Proposed implementation date for enforcement/compliance rules: July 1, 2016
Georgia’s Pre-K Program & Instructional Supports Update

Susan Adams
Assistant Commissioner for Pre-K & Instructional Supports

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
www.decal.ga.gov
Summer Transition Program Application
Rising Kindergarten Model

- **March 7**: Application available in PANDA to existing Georgia’s Pre-K providers
- **March 24**: 5 p.m. application submission deadline
- **March 28-April 8**: Application review process
  - Applications scored using a rubric
  - Applications reviewed by internal and external reviewers
- **April 18**: Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs
- **June 6-July 15**: Program implementation
Summer Transition Program Application
Rising Pre-K Model

- **February**: Invitation to participate sent to identified potential providers
- **April 18**: Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs
- **June 6-July 15**: Program implementation
Georgia’s Pre-K Application

- **March 28**: Application available
- **April 22**: Application submission date
- **May 16-June 15**: 
  - New and expansion applications reviewed
  - Potential new and expansion classes identified
- **July 1, 2016**: Grant agreements sent through PANDA to awarded programs
Composed of three components:

SCHOLARSHIPS: *Tuition assistance and stipends for those pursuing ECE credentials or degrees*
Funded by Child Care and Development Fund

INCENTIVES: *Up to 4 payments after obtaining an ECE credential or degree and having worked for the same employer for at least 12 months*
Funded by Child Care and Development Fund

AWARDS: *One-time bonus after obtaining an ECE credential or degree*
Funded by Early Learning Challenge Grant
SCHOLARSHIPS

- Covers 80% of tuition and fees not covered by HOPE or Pell at public institutions
- Covers $1,968 at private institutions
- Must pursue credential or degree in ECE or related field
- Must attend one of Georgia’s technical colleges or a SACS accredited, HOPE eligible institution
INCENTIVES

After one year of employment with an eligible provider, earn salary bonus
- $250 to $1,250 per payment

Level of bonus and number of payments depend upon credential or degree earned
- CDA or Entry Level TCC: two payments
- Higher credentials: four payments
AWARDS

- Level 1: Single payment of $1,200 for attaining a CDA or TCC
- Level 2: Single payment of $1,500 for attaining a TCD or associate’s degree
- Level 3: Single payment of $2,500 for attaining a bachelor’s or master’s degree

Must be employed by eligible provider for at least six consecutive months
# TOTALS FOR PREVIOUS AND CURRENT YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2015 Totals</th>
<th>FY 2016 As of January 20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of Unique Participants</td>
<td>Funds Awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>1,386</td>
<td>$1,190,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCENTIVES</strong></td>
<td>1,652</td>
<td>$1,380,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AWARDS</strong></td>
<td>606</td>
<td>$1,613,900</td>
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Nutrition Services Update

Falita Flowers
Nutrition Services Director
Recommended changes include:
- New CACFP meal pattern requirements
- Decrease in area eligibility threshold
- Increase sponsor fee with family day care learning homes
- Expand meal benefits
- Additional funds for outreach and expansion initiatives
- “Out of School-Time” Program
2016 CACFP Outreach Activities

- National CACFP Week
  - March 14-18, 2016
- Program Expansion
  - Afterschool Programs
  - Adult Care Facilities
  - Farmer’s Markets
Successful Summer 2015

- 24% increase in meals served
  - 5.7 million
- 10% increase in daily participation
  - 101,000 children/eligible adults
- 9% increase in counties served
  - 150 counties
SFSP Outreach and Expansion Activities

- SFSP Summit
- Statewide Press Events
- Program Expansion:
  - Medical Facilities
  - Mobile Delivery Systems
  - Colleges and Universities
GA ATLAS

- Electronic System
- Training registration
- Application
- Claims
- Compliance reviews
- Internal and external reporting features
Background Checks Update

Christie Monteilh Bearden
Legal Services, Criminal Records Unit Supervisor
Background Checks Update – Numbers

Since the law requiring all employees of the child care industry to have a national background check clearance was passed in 2014, DECAL has issued **57,431** determination letters

Average turn-around time: **4** business days

DECAL unit: expanded from **2** to **10** employees
Parents and grandparents no longer need fingerprint clearance to volunteer in the classroom

Extends the portability period for Students-in-Training to two years

Eliminates the notary requirement for records check applications

Authorizes DECAL to run fingerprint-based background checks for all Head Start programs, even those not licensed through DECAL

Registered Support Centers, such as universities and temp staffing agencies, can independently initiate the background check process
January 2016: DECAL launched Phase III of the DECAL KOALA online portal project
- Allows for online submission of applications and records check letter management for facilities
- Over 1,400 applications submitted online in 2016
- Decreases processing time from 4 to 2 days
- Overwhelmingly positive feedback from providers
Lunch
(Pick up in Entry Area)

Committee Meetings

Programs – Hickory
Budget/Finance – Willow
System Reform – Cypress

(The public is welcome to attend/observe committee meetings but may not participate in the committee’s discussion.)
Committee Reports

- Budget/Finance – Carlene Talton
- Programs – Sherron Murphy
- System Reform – Susan Harper
Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

Public Comments

February 18, 2016
Remaining Board Meeting Dates 2016

May 12, 2016
August 18, 2016
November 10, 2016