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Amy M. Jacobs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Announces 2017- 2018 Quality Rated Advisory Committee**

ATLANTA (November 10, 2016) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced members of the 2017-2018 Quality Rated Advisory Committee.

The committee members for 2017-2018 are:

1. Trudy Bradfield, Regional Manager of Childcare Network
2. Christopher Bryant, Program Director of YMCA of Metropolitan Columbus
3. Elynn Cochran, Senior Director of Early Learning and Development of United Way of Greater Atlanta
4. Pamela R. Carter, Director/Owner of Tickle Me Pink Daycare & Learning Center
5. DiAnne Coggins, Family Child Care Provider in College Park
6. Diane Tant Daniel, Owner of Discovery Point #28
7. Ashley Darcy, Assistant Director of Montessori Teacher Education Institute of Atlanta
8. Sandi Douget, Owner of GCCA Kids R Kids Mableton
9. Dineen Frankel, Director of Kids R Kids #36
10. Ronda Francis Gedward, Owner of Educationally Complete
11. Allison Gill, Director of The Suzuki School
12. Carla Hall, Center Supervisor of SWGACAC, Inc.
13. Michelle Hill, President of KIDazzle Child Care Inc.
14. Lisa Kingry, Director of The FAMILY Tree, Phoebe Putney Health System
15. Barbra Rawlings, Washington County NB & PW Club, Inc. Head Start
16. Elisa Shepherd, Director of KinderCare
17. Audrey Singleton, Owner of Richmond Hill Montessori Preschool
18. LaToya N. Smith, Director of Kuddles & Huggs Learning Academy
19. Katie Stanley, Department Director of The Children's House
20. Linda Smith, Early Childhood Education Instructor at Central Georgia Technical College

Members of the Quality Rated Advisory Committee will begin serving their 18-month term in January 2017. The purpose of the committee is to provide direct feedback to DECAL about the

Quality Rated program and process, which will help enhance the quality of the program and increase participation.

“I look forward to working with this year’s Quality Rated Advisory Committee,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “This important committee is composed of professionals from different child care settings who are directly involved in caring for Georgia’s children while working hard to enhance the quality of the services they provide. We need their input and expertise.”

Georgia’s Quality Rated child care providers are committed to going above and beyond state health and safety requirements to provide a high-quality experience to children and their families.

To find a high-quality, rated child care program in your area or to learn more about Quality Rated, visit www.QualityRated.org .

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

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.