



In The Know: Trainer Newsletter

Words from Christi

Welcome back to the new school year, trainers!

The remainder of 2018 and the entirety of 2019 has plenty in store for us. I am pleased to announce that Phase II of the Georgia Professional Development System will roll out on January 7th, 2019. In this rollout, Georgia Training Approval (GTA) will become a part of GaPDS. The integration of these two systems means exciting changes for trainers and for the GTA staff. Trainers will be able to schedule training sessions and track attendance in the system. In addition, the system will auto-generate certificates which will automatically post to participants' GaPDS accounts. Phase II will incorporate all the functionality of the existing GTA system: approved trainers will use GaPDS to submit training applications and to renew trainer designations. The calendar feature will allow providers to search the system for trainings.

An important aspect that is not changing: DECAL remains in strong partnership with the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, which manages GTA. Karen Shetterley and Kristine Garcia have played an important part in developing and testing the new system. Their support has been invaluable and we look forward to collaborating on this launch. We are beyond excited to reveal GaPDS Phase II. Keep an eye on your email for more information as January 7 gets closer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christi Moore'.

Christi Moore, PhD
Director of Professional Learning

Phase II of GaPDS: So What Happens Next?

As you can imagine, a tremendous amount of work and preparation is going into the launch of Phase II of the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) and we need your help to ensure that all goes smoothly. As we prepare to merge the Georgia Training Approval (GTA) and GaPDS systems, we must match trainers' existing GTA accounts with their GaPDS accounts. All currently approved trainers must enter their GaPDS numbers into their GTA accounts **before Monday, November 12, 2018**. If you don't have a GaPDS account, please visit www.gapds.decals.ga.gov to create one. If you have questions about your GaPDS account, please contact the GaPDS User Support team at gapds@decals.ga.gov or 404-267-2760.

Beginning in late November, trainers will be unable to use the GTA system to submit any applications for trainings or for trainer renewal. The calendar feature and trainer resources will continue to be available. The temporary shutdown of the application feature will allow GTA and DECAL to ensure that the merger of the two systems goes well. Trainers whose designations expire and those whose trainings expire during this period have been contacted directly. DECAL and GTA thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards launching Phase II.

Spotlight on Georgia's Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies



Since 1994, **Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest Georgia at Albany, Region 4**, has led the charge in South Georgia to enhance children's early education experiences and to provide parental access to high quality child care. Housed under the auspices of Albany State University, the agency serves a fifty- two county region. The twenty-two staff members provide a high caliber of early childhood professional development and onsite technical assistance to early learning programs working to become Quality Rated.

Since 2012, Region 4 has assisted 362 child care programs to become Quality Rated with an individualized, hands-on approach to technical assistance. The team believes that consistent internal staff communication and documentation is key to helping programs make progress and accomplish their goals. Moving forward, Region 4 will incorporate Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) into their technical assistance approach.

Getting to Know the Professional Learning Unit

Our Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) includes a user support team that provides customer service and technical support to teachers, directors, and trainers who need help using GaPDS. We have had a few new people join the team and are happy to introduce them to you:



Nikki Jefferson

"The favorite part of my job is the feeling of accomplishment that I receive after assisting GaPDS users."



Abby Mozo Quinarez

"I love helping others advance to higher levels than they thought they ever would be able to."



Letittia Harris

"I enjoy assisting our early care and learning educators by resolving issues and referring educators to the appropriate resources."



Victoria Bosman

"My favorite part of this position is being around my team members and learning from them. They are endearing and have made the onboarding process seamless for me."



Doris McQuiller

The DECAL family would like to give a warm congratulations to Doris McQuiller on her promotion from User Support Representative to User Support Specialist within DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. Doris comes from a wide variety of experiences. She has a background in customer service support, serving as a PTA President and provided her service at an elementary and middle school. Overall, she strives to broaden her horizons in the Professional Learning Unit. She is well on her way by assisting the move from Phase I to II. She is a team player and is always willing to go above and beyond.

Two additional staff have recently joined the PLU team:



Akaiyah Moore, Instructional Supports Administrative Assistant (Right)

The newest member of the Professional Learning Unit is Akaiyah Moore, Instructional Supports Administrative Assistant. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing at Brenau University. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue her Master's Degree in Business Administration. Akaiyah is passionate about serving others, especially children. She plans to use her educational experience to continue her assistance for children. Her favorite part of being an administrative assistant in the Professional Learning Unit is the opportunity to work for an agency that makes such a positive impact on the lives of young learners.

Aidan Ivory Edwards, Instructional Supports Intern (Left)

The newest intern of the Professional Learning Unit is Aidan Ivory Edwards. He graduates from Georgia State University this Spring with his Bachelor's Degree in English and a concentration in creative writing. Following graduation, he will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Human Resources. Education is crucial to Aidan. He understands that positive experiences children have in their learning environments pave the way for their future success. His favorite part about working with DECAL is knowing that this agency makes a significant difference in children's lives by setting them up for success and reinforcing optimism towards academics in their later years. He is happy to be constantly learning and a part of the team.

What's Up at DECAL

CCS Customer Service Survey

To ensure exceptional customer service and improve practices, DECAL Child Care Services (CCS) now offers customers the opportunity to provide their perception of selected regulatory visits. Upon the completion of a site visit report, providers will receive an email with the visit report attached and an invitation to complete a survey about the visit. The survey will ask some brief questions concerning the quality of the consultant's visit. The survey results will be used to inform professional development opportunities for CCS staff and to recognize staff who provide exemplary customer service.

New Resource to Help Interpret Georgia's Child Care Licensing Rules

Child Care Services is excited to share a new resource to help interpret child care licensing rules. The Indicator Manual was created to provide licensing staff with a tool for determining compliance with licensing rules and to assist child care learning center owners and staff in understanding and meeting the rules and regulations. The Indicator Manual has been prepared to help with statewide consistency in the understanding and enforcement of the Rules for Child Care Learning Centers. The manual provides a general overview of licensing rules and gives additional information to broaden one's knowledge about the intent and meaning of specific rules.

To access the Indicator Manual for Child Care Learning Centers, go to the following link:

<http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/IndicatorManual.pdf>

Professional Learning Unit Spotlight!

Celebrating Professional Learning Community Facilitators



On May 8, 150 people gathered in Buford, Georgia for the 2018 Learning Showcase to celebrate the accomplishments of participants in DECAL's Professional Learning Community (PLC) Facilitator training program. The Showcase is the culminating event for the initiative, now in its third year. PLCs are groups of people who come together to share challenges about working with young children and their families and learn to improve their practices over time. The goal of the training program is to equip early learning professionals in Georgia to lead PLCs within their own contexts. Participants include staff from DECAL, child care learning centers, family child care learning homes and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies as well as independent trainers, and higher education faculty. The presence of Certified PLC Facilitators has strengthened the professional development offered across the state. Certification requires participants to look critically at their practice and reflect on their learning. Becoming certified helps facilitators feel more confident in their abilities and spread the word about the benefits of participating in PLCs to early learning professionals. For more information about PLC Facilitator Training, contact Laura Reid at laura.reid@dec.al.ga.gov.



DECAL INCENTIVES

DECAL Scholars continues to uplift Georgia's early learning professionals with its educational counseling, Scholarships, Incentives, and Awards programs. The programs provide ongoing financial assistance; educational counseling; and rewards and incentives for participants, who are achieving higher academic credentials while working in early care and education. INCENTIVES is a salary supplement that rewards the tenure of early learning educators, who increase their early childhood education academic credential levels or degrees, while continuing to work for the same employer for 12 consecutive months. The INCENTIVES application period for fall payments opened on August 15th and ends October 15th.

To learn more about the DECAL Scholars program, please visit: <https://www.decalscholars.com/>

Georgia Approved Trainers

Congratulations and welcome to new trainers approved in April – June 2018 as well as to trainers who have recently achieved a new trainer designation!



To Our Newest



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Trainers!

Trainers

Renda Donaldson- Trainer I
Kerry Burke- Trainer I
James Lucas- Trainer I
Elisa Gresham-Lumpkin Trainer I
Scott Durr-Trainer I
Jessica Perschka-Trainer I
Sekita Redding Trainer I
Susan Hunt-Trainer I
Starkeila Harper-Trainer I
Kristi Lachlan-Trainer I
Christine Anthony-Trainer III
Tiffany Adams- Trainer III
Amy Southers-Trainer III

Specialty Trainers

Julie Carnes
Dayana Claeys
Davina Blair
Montique Hall

Changed Designations

Carmen Guadagno-Specialty Trainer- Trainer I
Jennifer McMichael-Trainer I-Trainer II
Tynesha Terrell-Rowland-Trainer I-Trainer II
Marjorie Cunningham-Trainer I- Trainer II
Melvina Crawl-Trainer II-Trainer III
Cathy Hawes-Trainer I-Trainer II

Upcoming Dates

The Board of Early Care and Learning meets quarterly to support DECAL's mission and vision and help guide the department's work. Board meetings, which are open to the public, begin at 9:00 AM. For more information, visit [Board Of Early Care and Learning](#).

2018 Board Meeting Schedule:
4th Quarter: November 15, 2018

Why Children Are Better Learners than Adults: The Exploratory Infant Brain

September 10, 2018
Gainesville, GA

Columbus Speaker Series Event: Understanding Trauma's Impact on Young Children

September 19, 2018
Columbus, GA

The 2020 Census: Implications for Georgia's Children and Families

September 24, 2018
Atlanta, GA

DECAL Sponsored Event: Introducing GaPDS Phase II: A Pre-conference Session for Trainers

October 4, 2018
Alpharetta, GA

For more information or to register,
email proflearning@dec.al.ga.gov

GAEYC Annual Conference

October 5 – 6, 2018
Alpharetta, GA

NAEYC 2018 Annual Conference

November 14 – 17, 2018
Washington, DC

2019 Leadership Connections National Conference

May 9 – 11, 2019
Wheeling, IL



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STAY CONNECTED

