

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Name: Jackie Romain, MBA

Title: Director, Nutrition Services

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

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Ms. Romain manages two USDA funded programs for the state of Georgia: the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of child and adult care in Georgia by providing more than 80 million nutritious meals and snacks to low income families each year. More than 3.5 million meals are provided to Georgia children during the summer months when school is not in session. Additionally, Ms. Romain works in partnership with public and private organizations to address the problem of obesity in Georgia. The goal of these partnerships is to send consistent messages for healthier lifestyles. Obesity projects include the development of a website: healthyeatingforlife.org which is designed to improve lifelong healthy eating habits and increase physical activity among children between birth and five years old and their families and caregivers. The website supports Governor Sonny Perdue and Department of Human Resources' Live Healthy Georgia Campaign and Georgia's Nutrition and Physical Activity Plan. Other projects include the development of a curriculum for caregivers of young children to create healthy eating and physical activity habits. This curriculum was created in partnership with the University of Georgia, Department of Child and Family Development. CDs and DVDs were developed to compliment curriculum activities, and public service announcements have been created and distributed throughout the state. Ms. Romain serves on the Steering Committee and co-chairs the Early Care work group for Georgia's Nutrition and Physical Activity Initiative to prevent obesity and other chronic diseases. This initiative which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allows coordination with multiple partners to address the problems of obesity and other chronic diseases throughout the state. Georgia is one of 25 states currently receiving funding from CDC.