



Board of Trustees Meeting
October 20, 2022 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes

Members Present (13):

Rep. Paula Calhoon
Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Jerry Govan
John Hayes
Tim Holt
Mike Leach
Jessica Mackey
Jennifer McConnell
Janie Neeley

Roger Pryor
Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams

Sen. Greg Hembree
Robert Kerr
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Dr. David Mathis
Dave Morley, Chairman
Alexia Newman
Nicole Wynkoop

Members Absent (10):

Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Dr. Michelle Fry

Attendees (63)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Abby Duggins
Alexis Pipkins
Amanda Bailey
Ashlea Hatcher
Betty Washington
Blaine Van Dyke
Carletta Isreal
Chelsea Richard
Chastine Dickey-Jackson
Cindy Ellis
Cindy Galloway
Crystal Campbell
Delores Rock
Dione Ashley
Dorian Young
Dwana Doctor
Felicia Battle
Felica Patrick
Janice Kilburn
Jennifer Williams
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Justina Siuba
Kate Roach
Kathy Jenkins
Kathy Sanders

Kenna Hoover
Kim Trudell
Kristine Jenkins
LaMyra Sanders
Lis Guimaraes
Monique Branagan
Nekim Clinton
Patricia Hall
Shakira Fulton
Sharon Bruton
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
SheKiah Reese
Sherry Gilliam
Stacy Greenwalt
Tiffany Outlaw
Tricia Gordon
Valencia Johnson
Beth Moore
Kaitlyn Richards
Martha Strickland
Derek Cromwell
Mark Barnes
Karen Oliver
Tom Lacas
Jessica Garrett
Lexi Jones
Rachal Hatton-Moore

Rhina Medina
Betty Gardiner
Kerry Cordan
Kathy Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Dudek
Howard Morrison
B. Van Dyne



Ms. Jones conducted a roll call.

Dr. Cordan shared information on First Steps is Here: Early Identification and Referral Program and its shared partnerships. Natoria Johnson, a parent participant in Allendale County's Early Identification and Referral Program shared the success of her experience.

Ms. McConnell called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m. Ms. McConnell requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Ms. Neeley provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes. Rep. Govan provided the motion. Dr. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to include items a, b, and c on the consent agenda. Mr. Holt provided the motion and Mr. Hayes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Williams provided the motion. Ms. Neeley provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: **Motions Recommended by Committees** (David Morley)

- a. **Motion:** To approve the update to the Evidenced-Based Home Visiting Parenting Program guidelines listed above the FY23 grant year (Programs and Grants Committee recommends)
- b. **Motion:** To approve the updates to the Program and Operational guidelines for the FY23 grant year. (Programs and Grants Committee recommends)
- c. **Motion:** To approve the update to the Evidenced-Based Home Visiting Parenting Program guidelines listed above the FY23 grant year. (Programs and Grants Committee recommends)
- d. Whereas disability, foster care, and living in poverty or a low-income household are risk factors for early school failure already adopted by the Board.

Whereas disability, foster care, and living in poverty or a low-income household are eligibility criteria for South Carolina Medicaid's Partners for Healthy Children coverage.

Whereas the poverty threshold for Medicaid eligibility for children includes the poverty threshold for other public benefit programs, like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);

Whereas Medicaid eligibility is an eligibility criterion for First Steps 4K and First Steps 4K students are sometimes a target population of local partnership programs, like for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY);



Whereas identifying those eligible, but not enrolled and assisting them in the enrollment process can lead to improved health and health care access.

Motion: That Medicaid eligibility for children birth through age five is added to the list of First Steps approved risk factors. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)

- e. Whereas exposure to caregiver/parent mental health and substance use issues and living in poverty or a low-income household are risk factors for early school failure already adopted by the Board;

Whereas Medicaid coverage can lead to improved maternal health at birth and for one year postpartum and healthy moms have an increased likelihood of healthy babies.

Whereas identifying those eligible, but not enrolled and assisting them in the enrollment process can lead to improved health and health care access.

Whereas the poverty threshold for Medicaid eligibility and qualifying event of pregnancy and birth includes the eligibility criteria of other public benefit programs, like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Motion: That Medicaid eligibility for pregnant and postpartum individuals is added to the list of First Steps approved risk factors. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)

- f. **Motion:** To authorize staff to reword, refine, and categorize the list of risk factors to be more family centered. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- g. **Motion:** To approve the corrective action determination as presented for the 3 local partnerships identified: Georgetown County, Horry County, and Sumter County. As a result of corrective action, the local partnerships effected are not eligible to apply for competitive or targeted grants until they have satisfactorily resolved the discrepancies noted on their corrective action plans as determined by SC First Steps. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- h. **Motion:** To approve the award of Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Infrastructure and Capacity Building round 1 grants to the following twenty (20) Local Partnerships as recommended by the SC First Steps staff review committee: Cherokee, Chesterfield, Colleton, Edgefield, Jasper, Kershaw, Pickens, Saluda, Sumter, York, Beaufort, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Hampton, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg Local Partnerships to not exceed \$485,750 in total funding per year for three years. Before grant funding is awarded, for the following ten (10) local partnerships (Beaufort, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Hampton, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, and



Williamsburg), SC First Steps staff are authorized to enter into activity and budget revisions as identified through the grant review process. All funded local partnerships must remain in good standing and free from corrective action through the final approval of the State Board of Trustees at their October 2022 meeting. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)

- i. **Motion:** To receive the 2021-22 Fiscal Year Financial Audit. (Finance and Administration Committee recommends)

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and the work on ensuring the overarching measures of success align with the Birth Through Five Plan key measures of progress.

Ms. McConnell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. She announced that Aiken County and Sumter County will be removed from corrective action plans. She also provided an update on the twenty READY grant recipients. Mr. Cromwell shared that York County and Clarendon County were no longer on corrective action plans.

Mr. Holt reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He shared that the agency had a perfect financial audit for the sixth year in a row.

Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report where she gave a legislative update on the agency's budget request. She shared an update on the agency's process on obtaining input and the process of permanent reauthorization. Ms. Dudek shared about the year end appeal. Ms. Mjartan announced the April 20, 2023 date for the A Night to Celebrate Community fundraiser. An update on 4K, staffing, and vacancies was provided.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Williams provided the motion. Rep. Govan seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm by Ms. McConnell.