

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A SOUTH CAROLINA NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

October 23, 2008

MINUTES

- Voting Directors Present: Ms. Lisa Van Riper, Acting Chair
Representative Jimmy Neal
Ms. Valerie Harrison (designee for Superintendent Jim Rex)
Rev. Reece Yandle
Ms. Linda O'Quinn
Ms. Sabine Lang
Dr. Floyd Creech
Dr. Francis Rushton
Ms. Nicky Wallace
Ms. Judith Aughtry
Ms. Marileen Chapman
- Voting Directors Absent: Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice-Chair, excused
Mr. Henry Parr, Jr., excused
Ms. Kristin Hook
Senator Michael Fair
Superintendent Jim Rex
Governor Mark Sanford
Senator John Matthews
Dr. Thaddeus Bell
Ms. Katherine Davis
Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis
- Non-Voting Directors Present: Dr. David Goble, Director, SC State Library
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC
Ms. Cindy Sweigart (designee for Mr. C. Earl Hunter,
Director, SC DHEC)
Ms. Debra Sessions (designee for Ms. Kathleen Hayes, Director,
SC DSS)
Ms. Jennifer Buster (designee for Mr. Stan Butkus, SC DDSN)
Ms. Stephanie Frazier (designee for Mr. Barry Russell,
President, SC Tech College System)
- Non- Voting Directors Absent: Ms. Susan Jones (designee, SC DOT)
Ms. Angela Flowers (designee, for Ms. John McGill, SC DMH)
Ms. Emma Forkner, Director, SC DHHS
Mr. Lee Catoe, Director, DAODAS
Mr. Jim Griffith, Director, Transportation Assn. of SC
Dr. Paul Krohne, President, SC School Board Association
Mr. David Potter, SC Education Oversight Committee
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC

Dr. Nancy Freeman, Regulatory Advisory Committee
Mr. Bobby Bowers, Director, SC B&CB/ORS
Ms. Lane Jeselnik (designee for Dr. Garrison Walters, SC
Commission on Higher Education)
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC

Others Present:

Ms. Libby Cable, The Lee Institute
Ms. Katara Dixson, The Lee Institute
Mr. Derek Lewis, Greenville County First Steps
Mr. Jim Riddle, Lexington County First Steps
Ms. Karen Odom, Chesterfield County First Steps
Mr. Rick Noble, Richland County First Steps
Ms. Dorothy Priester, Cherokee County First Steps
Ms. Sonia Gass, Orangeburg County First Steps
Ms. Centuria Watson, Chester County First Steps
Mr. Leon Love, Retired
Ms. Mary Lynn Diggs, SC Head Start
Ms. Cheri Shapiro, USC
Ms. Susan DeVenny, SC First Steps
Mr. Rodney Jenkins, SC First Steps
Ms. Samantha Ingram, SC First Steps
Ms. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps
Ms. Kim Aydlette, SC First Steps
Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps
Ms. Betsy Marshall, SC First Steps
Ms. Tamala Toney, SC First Steps
Mr. Rodney Jenkins, SC First Steps
Ms. Lisa Michals, SC First Steps
Ms. Rogers Hewitt, SC First Steps
Mr. Russell Brown, SC First Steps

Call to Order

Ms. Lisa Van Riper called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Judith Aughtry and a second by Rev. Reece Yandle, the minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Ms. Lisa Van Riper informed the board that they would be hearing one of two major subcommittee reports related to VISION 2013, First Steps' New Strategic Plan. Ms. Van Riper stated that everything at the meeting today would be received as information only. Ms. Van Riper said the Strategic Planning Subcommittee is in the process of compiling information to present to the board. Ms. Van Riper informed that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, headed by Mr. Henry Parr, would be conducting program and best practices evaluation between agencies. Ms. Van Riper said that this subcommittee would hold its first meeting next week, with three meetings scheduled before the Board's next scheduled meeting in December.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper said the Regional Early Childhood Summits had been completed and the Lee Institute would be reporting on the summit findings today. Ms. Van Riper then recognized Ms.

Libby Cable and Ms. Katara Dixon of the Lee Institute. Ms. Van Riper reminded the board that the summits took place because of a grant from the National Governor's Association. In addition, and as information, Ms. Lisa Van Riper stated that Mr. Dan Wuori would also present a report to the board and others on "South Carolina's Children, by Risk Area."

Ms. Susan DeVenny introduced Ms. Cable and Ms. Dixon.

Ms. Cable and Ms. Dixon then presented the report, "VISION 2013 Regional Early Childhood Summits Final Report Highlights".

Ms. Cable stated that, from information gathered at the Regional Early Childhood Summits, the Lee Institute recommends the following:

- Keep advocacy and communication front and center
- Model collaboration – trust and relationships
- Take into consideration different (TA) needs of each county
- Integrate and incentivize innovation, best practices and collaborative approaches
 - The desired end point for each partnership and region may be the same or very similar, but the means to get there may be varied or require a different pace.
- Implement approaches that focus on needs of whole family
- Find and remove barriers to participation by families
 - Transportation, in-home services, one-stop shopping
- Engage parents and families – hear the voices
- Mine the quotes to inspire and shape strategies

Following the report by the Lee Institute, Mr. Dan Wuori presented the board with a staff report, "South Carolina's Children, by Risk Area." After his presentation, Mr. Wuori answered questions from the board and others in attendance. Ms. Lisa Van Riper asked the board and others to email additional questions to Mr. Wuori.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper said the next step in the State Strategic Plan was to hear a report from the Strategic Planning Subcommittee on all information and data that has been gathered during the strategic plan process.

Finance and Administration Committee

Ms. Judith Aughtry reported for the Finance and Administration Committee.

Ms. Judith Aughtry briefed the board on the current status of budget cuts. Ms. Aughtry stated that First Steps would most likely receive a budget cut of \$1.78M, or close to 10 percent of the First Steps budget. She stated that legislative actions were taking place this week. Ms. Aughtry asked Ms. Kim Aydlette to brief the board.

Ms. Aydlette said this cut would include the original three percent cut made across the board in August. Ms. Aydlette said the three percent cut represents \$601,000 with \$439,000 allocated to counties who exceed \$195,000 (minus a subsidy from the state board of \$139,000 in private funds to be an actual reduction to 33 partnerships of \$300,000). To achieve the \$161,000 cut taken at the state office, Ms. Aydlette stated that the state office eliminated a contract with the CIO office, personnel adjustments and eliminated a Human Resource position to offset budget reductions.

Ms. Kim Aydlette said the board would need to meet again to discuss the latest budget cuts which would amount to a little under \$1.2M in additional cuts, pending legislative and gubernatorial approvals.

Executive Committee

Ms. Lisa Van Riper referred everyone to the SC First Steps Funding Principles document in their packet. Ms. Lisa Van Riper stated that the Statewide Funding Principles were not an action item today, but that Mr. Lewis Smoak did request that the board review the principles carefully.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper said that once First Steps received a final budget reduction number, Mr. Lewis Smoak would hold a specially-called board conference call at which time the board would have an opportunity to consider the approval of the Statewide Funding Principles and consider a plan to meet the specified cut.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper stated that principles are comprised of information from our enabling legislation, the 2008 early childhood regional summits, and the board's focus on reaching the most at-risk children statewide.

Program and Grants Committee

There was no report from the Program and Grants Committee.

Director's Report

Ms. Susan DeVenny asked the board and others in attendance to write any questions, additional observations or any considerations pertaining to long-term and short-term budget reduction decisions on the index cards included in their packets.

Ms. DeVenny recognized state board member, Rep. Jimmy Neal, to provide a legislative update to the board. Ms. DeVenny noted that Rep. Neal had been involved at the state house in all of the budget reductions. Rep. Neal then briefed the board and others on the procedures that have recently taken place at the state house.

Ms. DeVenny then briefed the board on the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program. Ms. DeVenny said that First Steps has partnered with the Duke Endowment, the Children's Trust fund, and DHEC to expand the NFP Partnership program into SC.

Ms. DeVenny then recognized Anderson, Richland/Lexington, Greenville and Spartanburg counties on their selection as an NFP site. Ms. Susan DeVenny also recognized Ms. Grace Stewart, the State Nurse-Family Partnership Coordinator and referred the board to the information on NFP in their packets.

Ms. DeVenny stated that First Steps continues in its third year of partnership with the Dept. of Education to expand the 4K program to eligible children in the trial and plaintiff districts of the state. Ms. DeVenny stated that First Steps currently has approximately 500 children enrolled in the trial and plaintiff districts being served in the non- public school settings. Ms. DeVenny said that First Steps has implemented additional recruitment efforts this year, designed to reach more children in these communities.

Finance Report

Ms. Lisa Van Riper asked Mr. Rodney Jenkins to give the finance report. Mr. Jenkins said asked the board to note the two percent cut from the original budget reductions has been incorporated in the contractual services, supplies, and travel line items.

Ms. Susan DeVenny then recognized Mr. Leon Love on his retirement. Ms. DeVenny stated that a private funder has provided lunch for everyone attending the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.