

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

**October 16, 2009**

**MINUTES**

- Voting Directors Present: Ms. Lisa Van Riper, Acting Chair  
Rep. Jimmy Neal  
Ms. Judith Aughtry  
Mr. Floyd Creech  
Ms. Kristin Hook  
Mr. Henry Parr Jr.  
Ms. Pam Wills (designee for Superintendent Jim Rex, SC Dept. of Ed.)  
Ms. Nicky Wallace  
Rev. Reece Yandle
- Voting Directors Absent: Governor Mark Sanford  
Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair, excused  
Senator John Matthews  
Sen. Mike Fair, excused  
Rep. Rita Allison, excused  
Ms. Marileen Chapman, excused  
Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis, excused  
Ms. Linda O'Quinn, excused  
Ms. Katherine Davis
- Non-Voting Directors Present: Ms. Susan Jones (designee, SC DOT)  
Ms. Jennifer Buster (designee for Mr. Andy Laurent, SC DDSN)  
Ms. Cindy Sweigart (designee for Mr. C. Earl Hunter, SC DHEC)  
Ms. Mary Payson (designee for Mr. Bobby Bowers, SC B&CB/ORS)  
Ms. Debra Sessions (designee for Ms. Kathleen Hayes, SC DSS)
- Non- Voting Directors Absent: Ms. Melissa Craft (designee, for Mr. John McGill, SC DMH)  
Dr. David Goble, Director, SC State Library  
Ms. Kathleen Hayes, Director, SC DSS  
Ms. Emma Forkner, Director, SC DHHS  
Mr. Lee Catoe, Director, DAODAS  
Mr. Jim Griffith, Director, Transportation Assn. of SC  
Ms. Stephanie Frazier(designee for Mr. Barry Russell, SC Tech Colleges)  
Ms. Lane Goodwin (designee for Dr. Garrison Walters, SC Commission on Higher Education)  
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC, excused  
Dr. Nancy Freeman, Regulatory Advisory Committee  
Dr. Paul Krohne, President, SC School Board Association
- Others Present: Ms. Susan DeVenny, SC First Steps  
Mr. Dan Wuori, SC First Steps

Ms. Kim Aydlette, SC First Steps  
Mr. Rodney Jenkins, SC First Steps  
Ms. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps  
Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps  
Ms. Betsy Marshall, SC First Steps  
Ms. Rogers Hewitt, SC First Steps  
Ms. Grace Stewart, SC First Steps  
Ms. Mary Anne Matthews, SC First Steps  
Ms. Barbara Black, SC First Steps  
Mr. Russell Brown, SC First Steps  
Ms. Tamala Toney, SC First Steps

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Lisa Van Riper called the meeting to order and acknowledged the additional Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for November 5, designated as the final work session on the state strategic plan.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion and a second was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, held Sept. 30, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Program and Grants Committee**

Dr. Floyd Creech offered a report from the Program and Grants Committee, referring to draft partnership expenditures for 2009. Dr. Creech noted the changes in spending on parenting services.

Mr. Dan Wuori added that while the agency did see a decrease in spending within the parenting strategy, the number of home visits increased. Mr. Wuori commended the County Partnerships for the ability to do more with less.

Ms. Debbie Robertson then spoke about the draft Infant/Toddler position statement, based off of the National Association for the Education of Young Children statement.

Dr. Floyd Creech said that he is very excited about the Infant/Toddler statement because there has always been a crisis in infant/toddler care. Dr. Creech stated that infant care is so expensive because of the intense services needed for that age group.

Dr. Creech asked for any input to be emailed to Ms. Debbie Robertson.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper noted the Infant/Toddler statement was information only and suggested all input be sent to Ms. Robertson.

### **Finance and Administration Committee**

Ms. Judith Aughtry started the committee report by giving the board a brief overview of the current subsidy to partnerships to cover the midyear cut. Ms. Aughtry stated that a webinar would take place on Oct. 28 to discuss the subsidy in detail and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Judith Aughtry stated that the Finance Ad hoc committee met on Oct. 26 to discuss the Exemplary Performance Criteria. Ms. Aughtry said that she hoped to have criteria finalized soon.

Ms. Judith Aughtry directed the board to the finance documents within their packets. Ms. Aughtry briefed the board of the new layout of the documents. Ms. Susan DeVenny asked that the board provide feedback on the new layout.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Susan DeVenny spoke briefly about the SCAEYC Leadership Day, which was held on October 15. Mr. Floyd Creech mentioned that the day was one of the Association's best and that he appreciated the open and frank discussion. Ms. DeVenny said that the day did indeed focus on collaboration.

Ms. DeVenny stated that the board would receive a full BabyNet transition report at the December board meeting, and provided a snapshot of the current transition process. Ms. DeVenny stated that the next full BabyNet transition team meeting would be held Nov. 4 and referred the board to the press handouts in their packet.

Ms. DeVenny noted the Governor's designation of the First Steps board as South Carolina's Early Childhood Advisory Council, required by the Head Start reauthorization of 2007. Ms. DeVenny noted the National Governor's Association representative will join the board in December to detail the responsibilities.

Ms. Susan DeVenny asked Rep. Jimmy Neal for a state of the budget.

Rep. Jimmy Neal expressed the importance of financial accountability in challenging financial times like these. Rep. Neal stated commended the First Steps agency for its strategic planning efforts, and the accountability tied to funding. Rep. Neal said that the agency must continue to show that the funding is needed.

### **Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee**

Ms. Lisa Van Riper briefed the board on the First Steps path, and highlighted the enabling legislation . Ms. Van Riper encouraged everyone to read the legislation and note the language referring to collaboration and the public/private partnership goals. Ms. Van Riper then gave an overview of the VISION process and commended the County Partnerships for the hard work during the Early Childhood Regional Summits.

Rev. Reece Handle commented on findings from the regional summits. Mr. Henry Parr commented on the findings from the strategic planning program subcommittee. Ms. Van Riper asked for any immediate input and asked all trustees to put added feedback into writing to Dr. Dan Wuori so the committee could consider it before December.

Ms. Nicky Wallace suggested that the specific findings from the subcommittee be incorporated into the VISION recommendation.

Ms. Mary Payson suggested that the agency continue to consider how to measure the work that would come from the recommendations.

Ms. Jennifer Buster stated that she would like to see BabyNet specifically spelled out in the VISION plan.

Mr. Henry Parr then made a motion to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made to end Executive Session.

The board then presented Mr. Rodney Jenkins a gift of appreciation for his work at First Steps.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.