

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

June 16, 2005

Voting Directors Present: Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair
Ms. Doris Ballard
Senator Michael L. Fair
Representative Shirley Hinson
Senator John Matthews
Ms. Lisa Van Riper
Ms. Sabine Lang
Ms. Claudia Cordray
Ms. Katherine Davis
Mr. Henry Parr
Mr. Walt Miller
Mr. Lee Cory
Ms. Inez Tenenbaum (represented by Dr. Linda Mims)
Dr. Thaddeus Bell

Voting Director Absent: Governor Mark Sanford
Ms. Linda O'Quinn
Ms. Kristin Hook
Ms. Judith Aughtry
Ms. Marileen Chapman
Representative Bessie Moody-Lawrence

Non-Voting Directors Present: Ms. Kim Aydlette (represented by Ms. Leigh Bolick DSS)
Ms. Susan Jones (designee for Ms. Elizabeth Mabry), DOT
Mr. James Johnson, State Library
Ms. Angela Flowers, (designee for DMH)
Ms. Hope Rivers, SC Tech College System (designee for Dr. James Hudgins)

Non-Voting Directors Absent: Dr. Stan Butkus, DDSN
Mr. Robert Kerr, DHHS
Mr. Lee Catoe, DAODAS
Mr. Bobby Bowers, B & CB ORS
Mr. Jim Griffith, Transportation Association of SC
Dr. Nancy Freeman, Regulatory Advisory Comm.
Dr. Conrad Festa, SC Commission on Higher Edu.
Dr. Paul Krohne, SC School Board Association
Mr. Bob Staton, United Way Association of SC
Mr. David Potter, SC EOC

Others Present: Ms. Susan DeVenny, Director, SC First Steps
Mr. Dan Wuori, SC First Steps
Mr. Rodney Jenkins, SC First Steps
Mr. Leon Love, SC First Steps

Mr. Russell Brown, SC First Steps
Ms. Tamala Toney, DSS/SC First Steps
Ms. Dorothy Priester, SC First Steps
Ms. Debra Session, DSS/SC First Steps
Ms. Wendy Homeyer, SC First Steps
Ms. Gladys Carter, SC First Steps
Mr. Jason Gilbert, SC First Steps
Ms. Nikki West, SC First Steps
Ms. Nancy Burchins, Richland County FS
Ms. Mary Payson, B&CB ORS
Ms. Nan Ford, Voices for SC's Children
Ms. Diane Willis, SC Dept. of Education, Office of Early
Childhood Education
Ms. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps
Ms. Fern Howell, Governor's Office of Education
Ms. Nancy Osborne, Berkeley County FS
Ms. Jannie Harriot, Allendale County FS
Ms. Karen Martini, Chesterfield County FS

Call to Order

Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Ms. Susan DeVenny recognized Mr. Jim Johnson of the State Library System and a member of the First Steps Board of Trustees's, Ms. Rita Paul and Ms. Sue Bruorton, SC Licensing and Regulations and Ms. Jannie Harriot, Executive Director of Allendale County First Steps Partnership for their dedication and commitment to First Steps.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2005 Board of Trustees' meeting, Mr. Henry Parr recommended that the minutes should only record actions taken. After a short discussion it was determined that the minutes should show action only and minutes were approved as written.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Lee Cory, Chair, reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had met and determined the need to raise \$850,000.00 by June 2006, in order to fund programs that have come before the board and been approved conceptually. Mr. Cory stated that the Ad Hoc Development Committee needs the assistance of both county and state board members to meet this goal.

Mr. Cory reported that county allocations for the coming year were in the board packets. He explained that the allocations were guided by the updated formula using new 2002 demographic information. Mr. Cory reported that as a result of the new

demographic information 10 counties would receive less funding for FY 05 -06 and other counties would receive more than last year. Mr. Cory asked board members to review the budget when received and submit any questions to Rodney Jenkins or to the Executive Committee and reported that the Executive Committee would review/approve.

Mr. Cory also reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of reviewing liability insurance coverage for Regional Finance Managers and will determine the amount of insurance RFMs will be required to carry.

Program and Grants Committee

Ms. Doris Ballard, Chair, reported that the Program and Grants Committee approved reallocation of funds greater than 15% for Darlington, Dorchester and Jasper counties, as information only.

A new strategy for Dillon County was presented to the board for consideration. Dillon County First Steps will partner with 10 additional county partnerships to provide child care training. The trainings will account for 5 of the required 15 hours of training for providers, three videoconferences will be held for 15 local child care providers for \$1,525.00. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Ballard made a motion that the board approves the strategy, and the motion was approved.

Prior to recommendations on county renewals, Ms. Ballard advised the board that Ms. DeVenny would give a presentation on how the county renewal process had been updated to increase partnership accountability for the 2006 renewal period. Following Ms. DeVenny's presentation, Ms. Ballard directed the board's attention to the Partnership Budget FY 2006 in their board packets. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Ballard recommended the First Steps Board, subject to data resolution issues, approve all 46 county partnership allocations. All county strategies are subject to the following conditions:

1. All counties will receive consultation according to 2006 Renewal (Overall and Programmatic) Themes. In addition, all counties will be involved in QACL Strategic Planning Process (September 2005).
2. Twelve counties (26%) will receive priority consultation during 2006,
3. Four counties (9%) will have contract requirements for resubmission within 90 days, in addition to site visits and priority consultation.
4. Five counties (11%) will receive site visits by August 30, 2005 in addition to priority consultation.

Mr. Smoak asked for questions, none were given and the motion to approve 46 county allocations were approved.

Ms. Ballard then made a recommendation to allow the Program and Grants Committee the authority to approve county revised plans as submitted in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Darlington, and Georgetown counties, up to the allocation amount approved, to

minimize any interruption in services to children and families at the county level among the counties who will be resubmitting plans by September 30, 2005.

Motion to approve recommendations approved.

Evaluation and Accountability Committee

Mr. Walt Miller, Chair, reported that the committee is moving forward and encouraged counties to be more outcome-focused. Mr. Miller requested monthly update reports from High/Scope Research Foundation, related to the 2006 Evaluation. He asked Mr. Dan Wuori to update the board on the Ad Hoc Committee's report Measuring and Monitoring School Readiness in South Carolina. Mr. Wuori directed the board's attention to the report in their board packets and advised that the report is a product of the South Carolina Readiness Assessment Team and the Evaluation Committee to develop policy recommendations about how to comprehensively measure and monitor school readiness in South Carolina. After some discussion Mr. Miller made a motion that the board accept the concept of the report and support its continued work. The board approved the motion.

Director's Report

Ms. DeVenny thanked reviewers and staff for their dedication throughout the renewal process. She then asked Ms. Leigh Bolick, DSS, to update the board regarding child care legislative activity for 2005.

Operations and Accountability Report

Mr. Rodney Jenkins informed the board that First Steps remains within budget and reviewed the Budget Summary and Financial Statement for FY 04-05.

Adjournment

Mr. Smoak reminded the board that the next meeting would be August 18, 2005. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary
South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board
Of Trustees, a South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation

Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair
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