

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

May 17, 2007

MINUTES

- Voting Directors Present: Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice-Chair
Senator Michael Fair
Mr. Henry Parr, Jr.
Dr. Floyd Creech
Ms. Sabine Lang
Ms. Kristin Hook
Mr. Lee Cory
Ms. Marileen Chapman
- Voting Directors Absent: Governor Mark Sanford
Representative Shirley Hinson
Senator John Matthews
Representative Bessie Moody-Lawrence
Ms. Lisa Van Riper
Ms. Linda O'Quinn
Ms. Marileen Chapman
Dr. Thaddeus Bell
Ms. Katherine Davis
Ms. Doris Santanello
Rev. Reece Yandle
Dr. Francis Rushton
Ms. Judith Aughtry
Supt. Jim Rex
- Non-Voting Directors Present: Ms. Charmeka Bosket, Representative to Governor Mark Sanford
Ms. Linda S. Martin (designee for Dr. Kathleen Hayes, Director, SC DSS)
Ms. Angela Flowers (designee, SC DMH)
Ms. Susan Jones (designee, SC DOT)
Ms. Hope Rivers (designee for Mr. Barry Russell, President, SC Technical Colleges)
Dr. Nancy Freeman, SC Child Care Regulatory Advisory Committee
Ms. Lane Jeselneck (designee for Dr. Gail Morrison, SC Commission on Higher Education)
Ms. Jennifer Buster (designee for Mr. Stan Butkus, SC DDSN)
Dr. David Goble, Director, SC State Library
- Non- Voting Directors Absent: Mr. Bobby Bowers, Director, SC B&CB/ORS
Mr. John McGill, Director, SC DMH
Mr. Robert Kerr, 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
Ms. Cindy Sweigart (designee for Mr. Earl Hunter, SC DHEC)
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC

Others Present:

Ms. Robin McCants, SC Department of Education
Ms. Mamie Bostic, Darlington County FS Partnership
Ms. Kimberley Jordan, Kershaw County FS Partnership
Mr. Baron Holmes, SC Budget & Control Board/Office of
Research & Statistics
Ms. Karen Odom, Chesterfield County FS Partnership
Mr. Jim Riddle, Lexington County FS Partnership
Mr. Spencer Scott, Florence/Marion County FS Partnership
Mr. Rick Noble, Richland County FS Partnership
Mr. Randall Johnson, Marlboro County FS Partnership
Rev. Alexis Pipkins, Jr., Lee County FS Partnership
Ms. Susan DeVenny, 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. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps
Ms. Beverly Mills, SC First Steps
Ms. Betsy Coleman, SC First Steps
Ms. Mary Anne Mathews, SC First Steps
Ms. Rogers Hewitt, SC First Steps
Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps
Ms. Joyce Johnson, SC First Steps
Ms. Samantha Catoe, SC First Steps
Ms. Joyce Johnson, SC First Steps
Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps

Call to Order

Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their participation. He then welcomed Dr. David Goble, new Director of the SC State Library, to the board. Ms. Susan DeVenny acknowledged the attendance of the First Steps County Executive Directors and Charmeka Bosket, representative to Governor Mark Sanford.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Sabine Lang and a second, the minutes of the March 15, 2007 board meeting were approved as written.

Strategic Planning and Administration Committee

Mr. Lee Cory distributed recommendations from the Strategic Planning and Administration Committee on agency goals for the upcoming year. Mr. Lewis Smoak suggested the board approve the goals but to keep status of goals open to any member of the board with questions, issues or suggestions. Based on committee recommendations, Mr. Smoak made a motion to approve the Agency Goals and Objectives for 2007. The board approved the motion.

Program/Grants Committee

In the absence of the Chair, Dr. Floyd Creech reported for the committee. The committee met on May 9, 2007 and accepted as information three staff-approved reallocations totaling less than 15% (Aiken, Charleston and Saluda county partnerships). Mr. Creech reported that the committee approved Aiken and Berkeley County's request to re-allocate state-appropriated and state-level private funds from "pending" into strategy areas.

Dr. Floyd Creech reported that the committee also reviewed and recommends to the board the approval of the reallocation of funds for summer transition strategies in Clarendon and Darlington counties. Clarendon had unspent funds in their full day 4K program because of funding provided by CDEPP. Darlington had unspent funds on parent training, child care quality enhancement and child care training and professional development. Upon a motion by Mr. Lewis Smoak, the board approved the reallocations.

Dr. Floyd Creech reported that the committee also recommended the addition of detailed Programmatic Requirements for the FY08 County Partnership Renewals. The recommendations define the Board's expectations for each major strategy to be funded at the partnership level, including new program fidelity, training and assessment requirements. Upon a motion by Mr. Lewis Smoak, the board approved the Programmatic Requirements for the FY08 County Partnership Renewals.

Evaluation & Accountability Committee

There was no report from the Evaluation and Accountability Committee.

Director's Report

Ms. Susan DeVenny thanked all committee members for their efforts. Ms. DeVenny also formally introduced Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps Grants Officer to the board. Ms. DeVenny said Ms. Gardiner had accrued \$400,000 in grants for First Steps at state and county levels since joining the staff in June 2006. Ms. DeVenny also addressed the grant awards pending at the time of the meeting, and referred trustees with questions to Ms. Gardiner. Ms. DeVenny updated the board on the agency's recent work to review a pending paper from Dr. Jack Shonkoff, author of From Neurons to Neighborhoods, and his forum.

Ms. Susan DeVenny updated the Board with the latest budget update from the Legislature. Though not final until the work of the conference committee is complete, First Steps is poised to receive \$21.3 million in recurring funds, \$7.85 million in supplemental appropriation funds to be used for the 4K pilot program, and \$4 million to be used for services for 0-3 year olds. Ms. DeVenny thanked Senator Fair for his work and leadership with the Early Childhood Quality Standards Task Force.

Ms. DeVenny then introduced Sharon Sprinkle of the Nurse Family Partnership.

Briefing: Nurse Family Partnership

Sharon Sprinkle gave an introduction to the Nurse Family Partnership program. The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program is an evidence-based, nurse home visitation program that improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children up to age 2. NFP nurse home visitors work with their clients to achieve three important goals:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including obtaining thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diet and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances.

- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
- Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

The cost per child and family varies from \$2,500-6,000 each year. The varied amounts depend on the nurse's salaries and the geographic regions. Each nurse carries a case load of 25 children. Ms. Sprinkle answered questions of the Board.

Ms. Susan DeVenny stated that the Nurse Family Partnership program would be funded in partnership with the Duke Endowment, should matching dollars become available this year from the legislature. A First Steps funding commitment of \$1,400,000 for year one would yield \$6,000,000 in Endowment funds over 7 years, for a total of \$7,400,000 in program impact.

Ms. Susan DeVenny updated the Board on the approved 4K pilot approved provider list and asked if anyone had any questions. Ms. DeVenny directed the board's attention to the map of all participating Countdown to Kindergarten counties and also invited everyone to the Countdown to Kindergarten Celebration on August 10, 2007 from 5 – 8 p.m. at EdVenture Children's Museum.

Operations and Accountability

Mr. Rodney Jenkins, State Operations and Accountability Manager, directed the board's attention to the Budget Summary and Monthly Financial Statement FY06-07 and provided a brief overview of each category.

Adjournment

Mr. Lewis Smoak reminded the board of the next meeting on August 16, 2007. Mr. Smoak reminded the board that the Executive committee can act in place of the Board of Trustees as needed. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.