

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

**January 21, 2010**

**MINUTES**

- Voting Directors Present: Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair  
Ms. Lisa Van Riper  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Ms. Judith Aughtry  
Mr. Floyd Creech  
Mr. Henry Parr Jr.  
Mr. Francis Rushton  
Ms. Nicky Wallace  
Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis
- Voting Directors Absent: Governor Mark Sanford  
Senator John Matthews  
Superintendent Jim Rex  
Sen. Mike Fair  
Rep. Jimmy Neal  
Ms. Marileen Chapman  
Ms. Linda O'Quinn  
Ms. Katherine Davis  
Rev. Reece Yandle
- Non-Voting Directors Present: Ms. Susan Jones (designee, SC DOT)  
Ms. Jennifer Buster (designee for Mr. Andy Laurent, SC DDSN)  
Ms. Leigh Bolick (designee for Ms. Kathleen Hayes, Director, SC DSS)  
Ms. Mary Payson (designee for Mr. Bobby Bowers, SC B&CB/ORS)  
Ms. Cindy Sweigart (designee for Mr. C. Earl Hunter, SC DHEC)
- Non- Voting Directors Absent: Ms. Melissa Craft (designee, for Mr. John McGill, SC DMH)  
Ms. Emma Forkner, Director, SC DHHS  
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  
Dr. David Goble, Director, SC State Library  
Ms. Lachelle Frederick (designee for Mr. Lee Catoe, Director, DAODAS)  
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC
- Others Present: Ms. Susan DeVenny, SC First Steps  
Dr. Dan Wuori, SC First Steps  
Ms. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps  
Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps

Mr. Joyce Johnson, SC First Steps  
Ms. Rogers Hewitt, SC First Steps  
Mr. Russell Brown, SC First Steps  
Ms. Tamala Toney, SC First Steps  
Ms. Betsy Marshall, SC First Steps  
Ms. Kristie Musick, SC First Steps  
Ms. Millie McDonald, CCCC  
Ms. Ann Pfeiffer, CCCC

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Lewis Smoak called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, held December 10, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Finance and Administration/Executive Committee Report**

Ms. Judith Aughtry reminded the board of agency activities since the December budget cut of \$835,000. Ms. Aughtry reviewed the method by which the board applied the cut. She stated that \$100K in EIA funds, set aside by the board in July for the Exemplary Performance Criteria pilot, was put towards the cut. Ms. Aughtry noted that the state office absorbed 58% of the most recent cut, with the remaining 42% of the budget absorbed by the County Partnerships. In addition to their share of the cut, each County Partnership has been asked to sequester an additional 5% to ensure they are prepared for any further midyear cuts. Ms. Aughtry referred the group to the FY10 County Partnership Budgets document to review the amounts per county and briefed the group on the communications that went to each County Partnership pertaining to their budget cuts.

### **Program and Grants Committee**

Dr. Floyd Creech called on Dr. Dan Wuori to review the TAP document in the board materials. Dr. Wuori briefed the board on the revised Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) system qualifications and provided context and background to the document. The committee proposed the TAP be adopted by the board, and noted this updated inter-agency document would provide common technical assistance standards in early childhood settings statewide. The TAP will also be incorporated into the First Steps FY11 Program Standards. Upon a motion by Dr. Francis Rushton and a second by Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis, the recommendation was approved.

Dr. Wuori provided an update on the BabyNet transition, on behalf of the Transition Leadership Team, and provided a brief, system-wide fiscal summary of the program. Dr. Wuori noted the recent release of the CDEPP evaluation by the Education Oversight Committee, noting its highlights and directing the group to the entire evaluation report online.

Dr. Creech then called on Ms. Debbie Robertson to review a re-allocation request from Saluda County First Steps. Ms. Robertson reviewed the Saluda County First Steps Partnership Board request to re-allocate funds from their 4K strategy to their Child Care Quality Enhancement strategy, Child Care Training and Professional Development strategy. Upon a motion by Dr. Floyd Creech and a second by Dr. Francis Rushton, the recommendation was approved.

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

Ms. Lisa Van Riper stated that the committee did not have a report at this time.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Susan DeVenny thanks the interagency partners whose efforts resulted in the updated TAP document. Ms. DeVenny informed the group on the upcoming virtual Smart Start Conference, Feb. 18 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Ms. DeVenny invited everyone to participate in the conference at the state office.

Ms. Susan DeVenny also reviewed the venue changes in the 2010 Board of Trustees meeting dates and thanked the staff and volunteers for their hard work, especially noting the upcoming committee work nearing FY11. She reviewed the budget challenges with the board and guests.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.