



Board of Trustees Meeting
August 15, 2024 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes

Trustees Present (14):

Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Dr. Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Mike Leach
Dave Morley, Chairman
Janie Neeley
Roger Pryor

Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Edward Simmer
Wes Wooten
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Trustees Absent (9)

Rep. Terry Alexander
Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Constance Holloway
Robert Kerr
Jessica Mackey
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Jack McBride
Dr. Brenda Williams

Attendees (80)

Mark Barnes
Avian Jones
Alissa Durham
Alonzo Johnson
Amanda Bailey
Amber Gillum
Amy Breault
Anita Ellison Porter
Anna Layton
April Cromer
Arthur Brewton
Barbara Casper
Berry Kelly
Betty Washington
BJ Norris Long
Brian Butler
Candi Lalonde
Chelsea Adamson
Chelsea Richard
Cheryl Scales
Chiffon McNeil
Cindy Galloway
Cindy Hurst
Cindy Riley
Crystal Williams
Darlyene Gillie

David Lisk
David O'Kelly
Dorian Young
Elaine Gentry
Elizabeth Dudek
Emma Matzko
Felicia O'Neal
Francis Rushton
Gina Beebe
Harriett Clarke
Jade Wright
Jaiden Branch
Janice Kilburn
Jeanette Samuel
John Browne
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Julie Greer
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kate Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Katie Jagger
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kim Chariker

Kristen Martocchio
Kristine Jenkins
LaKeshia Meredith
Lamikka Samuel
LaMyra Sanders-Dukes
Lexi Jones
Lis Guimaraes
Maebelle Williams
Martha Strickland
Melissa Griffin
Mildred Daniels
Patricia McRoy
Pauletta Plowden
Pauline Whiting
Rachel Amrhein
Renee Williams
Rudilly Dubose
Sabrenna Long
Salisa McTeer
Sarah Eargle
Shannon Allen
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
Stacy Greenwalt
Tiffany Outlaw
Tyshica McConner

Veronica Reynolds
Victoria Belin



Mr. Morley called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Wooten provided the motion, seconded by Dr. Simmer, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the June 20, 2024 minutes. Mr. Wooten provided the motion, seconded by Dr. Simmer and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Morley reported on the Executive Committee where he shared that the committee met to take action on Local Partnership Executive Director compensation submissions. These actions were taken on behalf of the full board due to their time sensitivity. Effective July 1, Local Partnership Executive Director compensation decisions will go through the formal approval process and will be reviewed twice per year. Mr. Morley provided an update on the Executive Director search process.

Mr. Wooten made a motion to adopt the consent agenda and seconded by Dr. Simmer. Mr. Barnes provided information on the revised formula allocation for the Local Partnerships. The motion was unanimously approved.

- a. **Motion:** To approve the Revised Formula Allocation for the Local Partnerships for 2024-25 based on additional funds appropriated by the state for the 2024-25 fiscal year. (Finance and Administration Committee recommends)
- b. **Motion:** To approve the corrective action determination as presented for the seven (7) local partnerships identified (Abbeville, Aiken, Barnwell, Dorchester, Georgetown, Kershaw, and Richland counties). As a result of corrective action, the local partnerships affected are not eligible to apply for competitive or targeted grants until they have satisfactorily resolved the deficiencies noted on their corrective action plan as determined by SC First Steps state staff. (Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee recommends)
- c. **Motion:** To approve the program guidelines for Child Care Technical Assistance and Coaching: Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) and Teaching Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) for implementation in grant year 2025. (Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee recommends)

Mr. Wooten reported on the Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee, where he shared that the following counties are on corrective action plans: Abbeville, Aiken, Barnwell, Dorchester, Georgetown, Kershaw, and Richland. He shared the number of counties on corrective action plans has decreased over recent years.

Mr. Barnes reported on the Finance and Administration Committee where he shared organization's FY2024 end of the year expenditures and where the organization is financially for the new fiscal year.

Ms. Richards provided updates on the FY24-25 budget request where the organization received an increase of over \$11.5 million in state funding. She also shared information regarding the new proviso for the agency to separate from the SC Department of Education.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee where she provided an update on the Carolina Collaborative for Early Childhood Innovations initial cohort meeting and plans for



ongoing implementation. Dr. Richard shared the plans for the 2025-2030 strategic plan development and dates of listening sessions for the board to participate in.

Mr. Barnes gave an Executive Director's report where he provided an update on the agency's separation from the SC Department of Education. He also provided updates on the Act 81 implementation process for Local Partnership Executive Director hiring, salary, and evaluations, their core personnel policies, and their transition to PEBA. He shared the leadership change at Richland County First Steps. Mr. Barnes shared 4K data for the 2023-2024 school year, and 4K data for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Strickland shared highlights from the recent 4K Academy. Mr. Barnes gave an update on grants awarded to local partnerships for FY2024-2025. He announced new team members and shared the current job vacancies.

Mr. Wooten made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Simmer, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m. by Chairman Morley.



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

August 15, 2024, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Council Members Present (16):

Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Dr. Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Mike Leach
David Lisk
Dave Morley, Chairman
Janie Neeley

Dorothy Priester
Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Edward Simmer
Wes Wooten
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair
Sue Williams

Council Members Absent (9):

Rep. Terry Alexander
Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Constance Holloway
Robert Kerr
Jessica Mackey
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Jack McBride
Dr. Brenda Williams

Attendees (75)

Mark Barnes
Avian Jones
Alissa Durham
Alonzo Johnson
Amanda Bailey
Amber Gillum
Amy Breault
Anita Ellison Porter
Anna Layton
April Cromer
Arthur Brewton
Barbara Casper
Berry Kelly
Betty Washington
BJ Norris Long
Brian Butler
Chelsea Adamson
Chelsea Richard
Cheryl Scales
Cindy Galloway
Cindy Hurst
Cindy Riley
Crystal Williams
Darlyene Gillie
David Lisk
David O'Kelly

Dorian Young
Elaine Gentry
Elizabeth Dudek
Emma Matzko
Felicia O'Neal
Francis Rushton
Gina Beebe
Harriett Clarke
Jaiden Branch
Janice Kilburn
Jeanette Samuel
John Browne
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Julie Greer
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kate Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kristen Martocchio
Kristine Jenkins
LaKesha Meredith
Lamikka Samuel
LaMyra Sanders-Dukes

Lexi Jones
Lis Guimaraes
Maebelle Williams
Martha Strickland
Melissa Griffin
Mildred Daniels
Patricia McRoy
Pauletta Plowden
Pauline Whiting
Rachel Amrhein
Renee Williams
Rudilly Dubose
Sabrenna Long
Salisa McTeer
Sarah Eargle
Shannon Allen
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
Stacy Greenwalt
Tiffany Outlaw
Tyshica McConner
Veronica Reynolds
Victoria Belin



The meeting was called to order at 2:48 p.m.

Mr. Lisk provided the motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lisk provided a motion to approve the June 20, 2024 minutes. Dr. Simmer asked that we verify a motion that he made in the minutes. With that amendment, the motion was seconded by Mr. Wooten, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Richard provided context about the early childhood integrated data system policy statements and the Data Use Policy. Dr. Simmer made a motion to approve the Data Use Policy, seconded by Mr. Wooten. Mr. Morley entered discussion about departmental use and timeliness of approvals. Dr. Richard shared the roles and responsibilities in the SC ECIDS Data Governance Manual that addresses the timeliness of approvals. Mr. Morley amended the motion to approve the Data Use Policy and to include the modifications to the SC ECIDS Data Governance Manual. The motion was approved by Dr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Lisk. There was more discussion raised by Mr. Lisk and Mr. Leach. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Ferguson provided an update on the rollout of SC LETRS. He shared that 9,000 K-3 teachers are enrolled and 42 professionals from 16 education prep programs are participating in SC LETRS.

Mr. Leach shared that DSS introduced the launch of Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus (MCCYN-Plus) where the Department of Defense will provide fee assistance to military and DoD civilian families in SC and to ABC Quality providers with a rating of B or higher. He shared that DSS has provided additional operating grants to providers. As of July 26, 2024, DSS has approved more than \$115 million in expansion grants and 1,807 providers have received those grants. DSS has provided \$12.7 million dollars in one time wage supplements to over 9,500 child care professionals through the SC Boost program.

Dr. Simmer shared the split of DHEC to Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Services is complete. He shared that there are 2 major divisions within the Department of Public Health. The Health Promotion and Services division focuses on community health and well-being by working to prevent and address disease as early as possible and providing access to quality care through the health departments. The Health Care Quality division focuses on patient safety and ensuring health care facilities across the state provide high quality care. DPH is focusing on increasing their community outreach and engagement efforts. With expanded funding from the legislators DPH will also be working with facilities on ways to improve and will be posting facility inspections online. In May, for the first time since COVID, DPH was able to serve over 100,000 families through the WIC program that month. He shared their success with First5SC where they received over 500 applications.

Ms. Williams shared the success of the SCParents.org website launch. There is now a Parent Advisory Council section within the website where parents can talk with other parents. They are also recruiting volunteers for blog posts. She shared information on their upcoming conference in Greenville and that Children's Trust will now partner to complete the Youth Risk Behavior



Surveillance Survey for the stated. Ms. Williams shared that all 7 home visiting models are now available on the First5SC portal.

Ms. Gillum shared that another round of grant applications for PDG were submitted at the end of July. If awarded, South Carolina would receive \$8 million for 3 years. Only 10 states in the county will be awarded this grant and states would be made aware by September 30th.

Ms. Barnes reported on the activities of the ECAC. He provided an update on Palmetto PreK analytics and First Five SC analytics. He pointed out that 62% of applicants accessed First5SC after normal work hours. He reminded everyone about the Summit on Early Childhood on December 5th and thanked all Summit sponsors. He shared that there is a video that will be released at the Summit about the Two-Gen approach to family services. He also shared information about the success of the Palmetto Jamboree and the 4K Academy.

Ms. Diggs shared that the national priorities for Head Start collaboration offices have been merged. As of August 14th they noted that whereas Head Start collaborates with state systems, they are to align early care and education services supporting children and families prenatally, and to age 5. She also shared that they have been assigned to work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision making and improve child and family outcomes. She stated that Head Start is to support the expansion of access of high quality workforce and career development by working with professional development systems, including workforce registries and career pathways with an emphasis on institutions of higher learning to promote the expansion of career opportunities.

Mr. Lisk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Simmer, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.