South Carolina
Early Childhood
Advisory Council

# Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

December 6, 2023, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

## AGENDA

I. **Call to Order and Approve Agenda** (David Morley)
*Motion:* To adopt the agenda as submitted.

II. **Meeting Minutes** (David Morley)
*Motion:* To approve ECAC Minutes of October 19, 2023
*Attachment:* October 19, 2023, Minutes

**III. Presentations and Updates from ECAC Members**

**IV. Information**

a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Amber Gillum)
b. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)
*Attachment:* ECAC December 2023 Report

V. **Adjourn** (David Morley)
*Motion:* To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



636 Rosewood Drive | Columbia, South Carolina 29201

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

# Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

October 19, 2023, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

**Council Members Present (17):**

Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Constance Holloway
Michael Leach
David Lisk
Jack McBride
Dave Morley, Chairman
Janie Neeley
Dorothy Priester
Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Edward Simmer
Dr, Amy Williams
Wes Wooten

**Council Members Absent(8):**

Rep. Terry Alexander
Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Robert Kerr
Jesica Mackey
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Dr. Brenda Williams
Sue Williams

**Attendees (79)**

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Amber Gillum
Chelsea Richard
David Lisk
Derek Cromwell
Dorothy Priester
Ellen Andrews-Morgan
Elizabeth Dudek
Jackson Wilkins
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kathy Fitzgerald
Mark Barnes
Martha Strickland
Myrelo King
Valencia Johnson
Adriana Rush
Althea Clyburn
Amanda Bailey
Amy Engle
Betty Gardiner
Brandie Maness
Candi Lalonde
Chastine Dickey-Jackson
Cheryl Scales
Cindy Ellis
Cindy Galloway
Denise Savidge
Felicia Battle
Gwendolyn Ross
Kim Chariker
Jabari Clyburn
Jade Wright
Jennifer Williams
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Julie Greer
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kim Trudell
Kristin Zeaser-Sydow
Kristine Jenkins
LaMyra Sanders
Leah Crosby
Lis Guimaraes
Lavinia Tejada
Marcia Nash
Mary Bailey
Melissa Johnson
Roddrick Dugger
Ryan Shinn
Salandra Bowman
Sally McClellan
Samantha Ingram
Sarah Crawford
Shalya Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
Silvia Landrum
Stacy Greenwalt
Tiffany Outlaw
Tricia Gordon
Virginia Ravenel

The meeting began at 3:36 p.m.

Mr. Morley welcomed David Lisk, York County First Steps Executive Director, and Dorothy Priester, Cherokee County First Steps Executive Director, to their first in-person council meeting. He asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. McBride provided the motion. Dr. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the August 17, 2023 minutes. Ms. Neeley provided the motion. Mr. Pryor provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Oliver introduced Charles Appleby, Advisor to the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, who went over the statewide Educational Workforce Development Act and presented the Unified State Plan for the council.

Ms. Gillum reported on the interagency collaboration committee.

Ms. Mjartan reported on activities of the ECAC. She shared First5SC data and website metrics. She shared that there will be a launch for a cohort of six to eight local school districts and two Head Start providers later this month. She also shared the nationwide reach that First5 has had while SC serves as a model to other states. Lastly, she provided information on the annual board meeting and the end of year celebration that are being held on December 6th as well as the Summit on Early Childhood that is being held on December 7th.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pryor provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Lisk, and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council

## Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Activities
**December 6, 2023**

**ECAC**

- The SC Summit on Early Childhood is Thursday, December 7. The venue is at capacity. More than 450 people are registered, and 26 tables/exhibits are featured at the event.
    - A preconference virtual event will be offered the afternoon of December 6, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. This event is free and offered as a way to include parents who might not be able to participate in a full-day, in-person event.
- ECAC staff are updating Birth through Five Plan data to share with ECAC and with the public at large. These updates will be released in the new year.

**SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System**

The Data Governance Coordinator and the Director of Research and Strategy attended a grant sponsored workshop for ECIDS Data Governance in Phoenix, AZ with 11 other states. The information will be used to refine the SC data governance plan as the SC Department of Education completes the Early Learning Extension by 2024.

**Palmetto Pre-K and First Five SC**

**Palmetto Pre-K** (portal address: www.PalmettoPrek.org)

Website: February 1, 2020 – October 31, 2023

- Unique website visitors: 206,305
- Total leads: 26,917
- Eligible for at least one program: 22,006
- Head Start eligible: 11,012
- Public School eligible: 9,506
- First Steps 4K eligible: 7,088
- SC DSS Working Families Child Care Scholarship eligible: 3,927

**First Five SC** (portal address: www.First5SC.org)

- *Training for providers began October 30 and will continue through February for a total of 11 planned trainings. Trainings in October and November were well received, with the follow-up campaign to attendees exceeding industry standards by almost 100% for opening and clicking links contained in the emails.*
- First Five SC Website: February 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023
    - Unique website visitors: 198,829
    - Total leads: 16,724
- First Five SC Applications: May 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

  Total Applications Received: 1,587

  *By program:*
    - First Steps 4K: 77
    - WIC: 311
    - SC Child Care Scholarships: 528
    - First Steps Local Partnerships: 671

**Family Voice Council (FVC)**
Currently, 18 parents and caregivers represent the FVC. Six member terms end 12/31/23, with one candidate currently in the onboarding process. Recruitment is underway for the 7 seats that will be open in January 2024.

Members and alum of the Family Voice Council will be attending the summit on December 7, 2023. The Family Voice Council led content curation for the 2023 SC Summit on Early Childhood, and six members and alum will open the day with a Family Voice Spotlight.

**Grants**

- Alliance for Early Success
    - Three staff members attended the annual Alliance summit, CONNECT, in Charlotte, NC in October. The summit connects grantees from across the country with national experts and researchers to exchange ideas and build connections they can leverage as they pursue strong state early childhood policy.
    - ECAC staff met with multiple national TA providers, such as The Hunt Institute, the Committee for Economic Development, True North, and Council for a Strong America.
- Preschool Development Grant (PDG B5)
    - South Carolina, along with other PDG B5 grantees were awarded supplemental funds to enhance and build on their planning work. No cost extensions may be requested through December 2024. South Carolina will request that extension.
        - A small percentage of those funds will be used for First Five SC technical support.
    - Grants.gov forecasted that up to 10 PDG B5 renewal grants will be awarded in 2024. South Carolina is eligible to apply.
- Pritzker Children's Initiative– Support State and Local Leaders to Build Comprehensive Early Childhood System Portals
    - A video to introduce the First Five SC portal was completed in November. It will be posted on the website following its view at the ECAC meeting and its "premier" at the SC Summit.
    - Since the last ECAC meeting the First Five SC team made three presentations: BUILD Conference (in person); convening of human services leaders from western states (virtual); and presentation to community of practice convened by SRI (in person).
    - Hawaii and San Diego are scheduling meetings in January.