



**Board of Trustees Meeting**

August 18, 2022 2:00PM

SC First Steps

Zoom

Minutes

**Members Present (17):**

Dave Morley, Chair  
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair  
Rep. Paula Calhoon  
Jacque Curtin  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Tim Holt  
Robert Kerr  
Michael Leach

Jesica Mackey  
Dr. David Mathis  
Jennifer McConnell  
Alexia Newman  
Roger Pryor  
Dr. Edward Simmer  
Sue Williams  
Dr. Amy Williams

**Members Absent (6):**

Dr. Michelle Fry  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
John Hayes  
Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Janie Neeley  
Nicole Wynkoop

**Attendees (85)**

Georgia Mjartan  
Avian Jones  
Laura Baker  
Beth Moore  
Alexis Pipkins  
Alfreda Funnye  
Alison Gee  
Amanda Bailey  
Amanda Mitchell  
Amy Breault  
Amy Engle  
Anastasia Spann  
Anitra Hammett  
Arthur Brewton  
Ashlea Hatcher  
Betty Washington  
Bettye Bostick  
Beverly Booker  
Bill Simpson  
Bryan Burroughs  
Carletta Isreal  
Chastine Dickey-Jackson  
Chelsea Richard  
Cheryl Scales  
Cindy Galloway  
Cindy Riley  
Crystal Campbell  
Crystal Hill-Chapman

Danni Bloom  
Dedra Butler  
Denise Savidge  
Derek Cromwell  
Derek Lewis  
Dorian Young  
Duchette Hylton  
Edith Robinson  
Felicia Battle  
Jamal Middleton  
Jennifer Williams  
Jenny May  
Janice Kilburn  
Jon Artz  
Joy Mazur  
Justina Siuba  
Kaitlyn Richards  
Karen Oliver  
Kate Roach  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Kenna Hoover  
Kerri Schnake  
Kerry Cordan  
Kim Trudell  
Kristen Martocchio  
Kristine Jenkins  
LaMyra Sanders  
Lana Hopkins

Lexi Jones  
Lis Guimaraes  
Marcia Bacon  
Maria James  
Mark Barnes  
Martha Strickland  
Maryah Fram  
Mary Dozier  
Morgan Maxwell  
Olandor Lewis  
Pauletta Plowden  
Rachal Hatton-Moore  
Robin Jackson  
Rogers Pender  
Sally Cauthen  
Samantha Ingram  
Santasha Highley  
Sharon Bruton  
Shealy Riebold  
Shelia Cornwell  
SheKiah Reese  
Spencer Scott  
Stacy Greenwalt  
Syntrell Thompson  
Tiffany Outlaw  
Travis Wharton  
Tricia Gordon  
Ulysses Sullivan

Valencia Johnson  
Cheri Shapiro



Ms. Jones conducted a roll call.

Ms. Campbell Dorchester County First Steps Executive Director spoke during public comments.

Mr. Morley called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Sen. Hembree provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2022 minutes. Ms. McConnell provided the motion. Ms. Mackey provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley provided a report on the Executive Committee. He provided an update on the Pay for Success Project.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda. Dr. Williams provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: **Motions Recommended by Committees** (David Morley)

- a. Whereas South Carolina First Steps is committed to sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs in the counties across the state;

Whereas South Carolina First Steps has been successfully increasing the reach of evidence-based parenting programs by securing and deploying competitive federal and philanthropic grants to local partnerships;

Whereas the grant funds used to expand local partnerships' evidence-based parenting programs are time-limited, creating a funding cliff in the coming one to three years;

Whereas a pay-for-success financing mechanism, as authorized under South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 enables First Steps to work collaboratively with an impact investor and a philanthropic grantor to sustain and scale evidence-based parenting programs with additional accountability and outcomes focus;

**Motion:** To authorize South Carolina First Steps to develop a Pay for Success Project compliant with South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 and to submit a request to SFAA for approval for South Carolina First Steps to fund a Pay for Success outcomes-based financing project up to \$4.015 million over 3 years with an interest rate not to exceed 8% for the purpose of sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs delivered by First Steps Local Partnerships. (Executive Committee recommends)

- b. **Motion:** To approve the evidenced based Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) updated program guidelines for the FY23 grant year. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- c. **Motion:** To approve the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines for the FY23 grant year. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)



Ms. Roach shared information on First Steps is Here: Child Care Quality Enhancement and its shared partnerships. Lana Hopkins, Technical Assistance provider with Florence County First Steps shared her experience with working with a child care provider and how the Quality Enhancement program has assisted the provider.

Dr. Cheri Shapiro and Dr. Maryah Fram from the Institute of Families and Society at the University of South Carolina provided information on the preliminary findings of external evaluation of SCFS child care technical assistance programs for FY19-FY21.

Dr. Richard reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and the potential outcomes and vetting process for the Pay for Success project.

Mr. Cromwell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. He shared the committee's approval of updates to the operational guidelines and an update to the program guideline to Nurse Family Partnership. He discussed the list of counties that are recommended to be on corrective action.

Mr. Morley requested a motion to approve the corrective action determinations for the following local partnerships: Abbeville, Aiken, Calhoun, Clarendon, Greenwood, Lancaster, Lexington, Richland, and York. Furthermore, these partnerships will not be eligible for targeted or competitive grants until all identified deficiencies have been resolved, and the local partnership has been removed from corrective action status as determined by SC First Steps staff. Dr. Mathis provided the motion, Mr. Pryor seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved after some discussion.

Mr. Holt reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He provided an update on the financial condition of the agency and the plan for a task force to address the allocation model. He also shared that Greenwood and Abbeville Counties were making good progress on their corrective action plans. Mr. Morley shared that Abbeville County First Steps' budget has been reinstated back to the partnership.

Sen. Hembree provided a legislative update.

Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report where she shared information on South Carolina's plan to sustain and scale evidence-based parent programs and the funding cliff analysis for SC First Steps and the Early Childhood Advisory Council. She went over the plan for the Resources for Early Acceleration and Development Youth (READY) grant initiatives and the grantmaking process that would be associated with it. Ms. Mjartan shared information on the success of the First Steps 4K Academy, current First steps 4K data, and an update on grants that were awarded to the agency and are presently in development.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Sen. Hembree seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 pm by Mr. Morley.