



**Board of Trustees Meeting**

October 21, 2021

2:00PM

<https://zoom.us/j/92196505922pwd=WnA4MFlyZWJXWmFJU21xK2YzWndFdz09>

**Members Present (19):**

Dave Morley, Chair  
Dr. Shelley Canright  
Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Dr. David Mathis  
Robert Kerr  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Sue Williams  
Michael Leach

Dr. Edward Simmer  
Walter Fleming  
Tim Holt  
Jennifer McConnell  
Dr. Amy Williams  
Jessica Mackey  
John Hayes  
Nicole Wynkoop  
Alexia Newman

Roger Pryor

**Members Absent (4):**

Sen. Greg Hembree  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Dr. Michelle Fry  
Janie Neeley

**Attendees (74)**

Georgia Mjartan  
Abby Thorman  
A Brewton  
Amanda D. Scott  
Amber Gillum  
Amy Engle  
Avian Jones  
Beth Moore  
Betty Gardiner  
Bett Washington  
Bill Potapchuk  
Blaine Van Dyne  
Brittany Bush  
Candi Lalonde  
Carletta Isreal  
Cassie Barber  
Chastine Dickey-Jackson  
Dr. Chelsea Richard  
Cheryl Scales-Chavis  
Christy Stanton  
Cindy Ellis  
Cindy Galloway  
Cindy Kellett  
Cindy Riley

Derek Cromwell  
Dione Brabham  
David Mathis  
Dorian Young  
Dorina Frase  
Dorothy Priester  
Eunice Medina  
Gina Beebe  
Janice Kilburn  
Jared Busker  
Jasmin Tucker  
Jennifer Williams  
Jon Artz  
Joy Mazur  
Joyce Kimrey  
Justin Siuba  
Karen Oliver  
Kate Roach  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Dr. Kerry Cordan  
Kim Archung  
Kim Trudell  
Kristen Martocchio  
LaMyra Sanders

Laura Baker  
Lavinia Tejada  
Leah Crosby  
Leesa Aiken  
Lexi Jones  
Lis Guimaraes  
Marc Drews  
Mark Barnes  
Martha Strickland  
Marcia Cohens  
Peggy Ball  
Pierce McNair  
Rachal Hatton-Moore  
Rogers Pender  
Rusty Monohollon  
Sally Cauthen  
Samantha Ingram  
Sarah Crawford  
Sarah Eargle  
Shayla Pettigrew  
Sheila Cornwell  
SheKiah Reese  
Stacy Greenwalt  
Suzanne McGougan

Tiffany Outlaw  
Valencia Johnson

Ms. Jones conducted a roll call.



Ms. Jones reported there were no members of the public that requested to speak.

Dr. Canright called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Dr. Canright requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Canright asked for a motion to approve the August 19, 2021 minutes. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Canright reported on the Executive Committee and welcomed to the board Dr. Michelle Fry, Director of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

Dr. Canright asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda. Ms. McConnell provided the motion. Dr. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

- a. Motion to prohibit the following local partnerships from being awarded future competitive and targeted grants from South Carolina First Steps until all of the partnerships' issues contained in their Corrective Action Plans and until any pending investigations are resolved; Unresolved Fiscal Year 19 corrective action and unresolved OIG investigation- Abbeville County FS and Greenwood County FS; New unresolved Fiscal year 21 Corrective Action- Barnwell County FS, Horry County First Steps, Jasper County FS, and Kershaw County FS. (Programs and Grants Committee recommends)
- b. Motion to accept the Early Childhood Innovation Grant Awards to 5 applications representing the following 7 Local Partnerships as recommended by the SC First Steps grant review committee- Chesterfield, Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Cherokee, and Colleton County Local Partnerships. (Program and Grant Committee recommends)

Mr. Fleming reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He discussed the FY 2020-2021 Financial Audit in which the agency did not have any findings for its fifth year. He provided a financial update, information on the 2022-2023 budget request, and the conclusion of the Inspector General's investigation into two local partnerships.

Ms. McConnell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. She reviewed the changes for two partnerships, the program standard changes to the HIPPIY program, and a new program standard to SCPV. Mr. Cromwell reviewed the FY21 corrective action plans for the affected local partnerships and reviewed partnership vacancies and local partnership board terms.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and shared that the committee discussed the possibility of forming a scientific advisory task force.

Sen. Malloy provided a legislative update and acknowledged their support of the agency and its budget request for FY 2022-2023.



Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report with information on the budget request which includes a \$6 million request in recurring funds to support the needs of the local partnerships. She provided an update on the plans for ESSER III funds, the creation of the new Catch-up to Kindergarten, and the improvements to the AmeriCorps and HIPPIY programs. Ms. Mjartan shared updates on First Steps 4K and information on the First Steps Literacy Campaign. She asked the board for volunteers to read to children in First Steps 4K classrooms during the MLK Day of Service. Ms. Mjartan shared information on the spring fundraiser that will benefit the local partnerships, introduced new team members, and reviewed vacancies.

Dr. Canright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McConnell provided the motion. Ms. Williams seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm by Dr. Canright