



**Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting  
April 26, 2019  
Immediately following the meeting of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees  
EdVenture Children's Museum  
211 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present (12):**

Chip Stanley, Chair  
Senator Greg Hembree  
Josh Baker  
Shelley Canright  
Tim Holt  
David Mathis  
Jennifer McConnell  
Roger Pryor  
Sue Williams  
Walter Fleming Jr.  
Alexia Newman  
Angel Johnson-Brebner

**Members Absent (9):**

Julie Hussey, Vice Chair  
Senator Gerald Malloy  
Representative Rita Allison  
John Meacham  
Representative Jerry Govan  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Mary Poole  
Amy Williams  
Rick Toomey

**Others Present:**

Georgia Mjartan	Cassie Barber
Samantha Ingram	Kate Roach
Zack Catoe	Pierce McNair
Martha Strickland	Porlan Cunningham
Debbie Robertson	Jonathan Artz
Mark Barnes	Beth Moore
Betty Gardiner	



Mr. Chip Stanley called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and stated that a quorum was present. Mr. Stanley called for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Senator Greg Hembree made the motion to accept the agenda as submitted and Mr. Walter Fleming seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shelley Canright made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2019 meeting. Upon a second by Ms. Angel Johnson-Brebner, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. David Mathis said the ECAC is coming together to move the needle and take action to really get children school ready by looking at the whole child.

Dr. Mathis then read the proposed goals of the ECAC:

1. South Carolina's children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential.
2. South Carolina's youngest children are healthy and safe.
3. South Carolina's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.

Dr. Mathis reminded the group that it takes everyone on the council to make sure that children are ready for school by focusing on Early Care and Education, Health and Well-Being, and Family and Community.

Dr. Mathis stated that everyone must work together to move the needle for the child to be ready for 5K, then assessment ready, then college and career ready.

Dr. Mathis made the motion to accept the goals as written. Upon a second by Ms. Julie Hussey, the goals were unanimously approved.

Ms. Hussey mentioned the power of these goals, especially as we look at data, to help set standards for our communities.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan briefed the group on two, new public committees formed to focus on Outreach and Communications as well as Pre-K Joint Outreach and Coordinated Enrollment. Ms. Mjartan noted that any recommendations from either committee will come to the ECAC as action items.

Ms. Mjartan said the Pre-K Joint Outreach and Coordinated Enrollment Committee has met and agreed that the purpose is to create a single, shared identity and plan for outreach, recruitment, and enrollment for statewide pre-kindergarten program. The group determined that the identity should be called "Palmetto Pre-K" and membership should include CERDEP 4K programs (SC First Steps and the SC Department of Education), Head Start, DSS and other subsidized 4K programs including those offered by school districts (EIA and Title 1).

Ms. Mjartan said this action item comes from the committee and shows the commitment to finding an organizational home for Palmetto Pre-K.

Ms. Mjartan read the action item: "The Early Childhood Advisory Council commits to providing an organizational home for "Palmetto Pre-K," the joint outreach and coordinated enrollment effort for



subsidized Pre-K 4 programs in South Carolina including hosting and maintaining a single portal for families to learn about and access these programs. This effort shall include CERDEP 4K programs, Head Start programs serving 4-year-olds, DSS-funded 4K slots (i.e. through childcare vouchers) and other subsidized 4-year-old programs including those offered by school districts utilizing EIA, district and Title I funding.”

Mr. Josh Baker asked if SC First Steps would be the organizational home for Palmetto Pre-K. Ms. Mjartan stated that SC First Steps would be the organizational home, but the identity would be the ECAC and funding for this effort would need to be collective.

Ms. Mjartan stated that one purpose of the ECAC is to develop recommendations for increasing overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.

Mr. Pryor asked where the information collected through the portal would go. Ms. Mjartan responded that data governance has been an issue, however, at the first meeting a member of Education Oversight Committee and has hired a data consultant to find solutions for data sharing and ensuring that the data shared is both appropriate and legal.

Ms. Julie Hussey made the motion to accept the action item as read by Ms. Mjartan. Upon a second by Dr. Mathis, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan and Ms. Cassie Barber informed the group that an Outreach and Communications Committee would be formed and encouraged members of the ECAC to sign-up to participate on the committee.

Senator Hembree made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Walt Fleming. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.