



**Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
June 20, 2019
Immediately following the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting
Conference America – Phone Meeting
1-888-537-7715**

MINUTES

Members Present (17):

Chip Stanley, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Josh Baker
Shelley Canright
Walter Fleming Jr.
Representative Jerry Govan
Amy Williams
Tim Holt
Mary Lynne Diggs
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Jennifer McConnell
Alexia Newman
Roger Pryor
Mike Leach
Rick Toomey
Sue Williams
Mary Poole

Members Absent (4):

Representative Rita Allison
David Mathis
Senator Greg Hembree
Senator Gerald Malloy

Others Present

Georgia Mjartan	Lavinia Tejada
Samantha Ingram	Sara Eargle
Zack Catoe	Laura Baker
Mark Barnes	Candi Lalonde
Debbie Robertson	Jon Artz
Betty Gardiner	Melanie Barton
Cassie Barber	Bunnie Ward
Porlan Cunningham	

Mr. Chip Stanley called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and stated that a quorum was present. Mr. Stanley called for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Tim Holt made the motion to accept the agenda as submitted and Dr. Amy Williams seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Mr. Roger Pryor made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2019 meeting. Upon a second by Ms. Julie Hussey, the minutes were unanimously approved.



Ms. Cassie Barber gave the Early Childhood Advisory Council Report. Ms. Barber updated the group on the Preschool Development Grant and stated that all partners were working very hard on the needs assessment portion of the grant.

Ms. Barber noted that the Harwood Model of Community Engagement process was used to conduct a part of the needs assessment and that preliminary results were in with the final report to be presented to the ECAC at the August meeting.

Ms. Barber said the process contained three different methods of gaining stakeholder input on the three domains, Early Learning and Development, Health and Wellbeing, Family and Community. Ms. Barber said there were 15 regional meetings with 440 participants held in April and May, along with an online survey which resulted in 2,680 useable responses (45.4% parents/caregivers, 42.3% organizational representatives, 12.3% community members). The third method used was focus groups conducted in all 46 counties with a total of 1,495 participants: 911 parents/caregivers, 418 organizational representatives and 166 others.

Ms. Barber stated that she was very confident that the statewide strategic plan that will be presented to the feds will include the voices of local stakeholders. Ms. Barber said Research, Evaluation and Measurement at UofSC are collecting data from each state agency including strategic plans and action plans that will be reviewed and used in the writing of the state strategic planning which will begin in July.

Ms. Barber informed the group that Dr. Leigh D'Amico, Research Evaluation and Measurement, with the UofSC, will attend the ECAC meeting in August to give a presentation on the needs assessment report.

Ms. Barber noted that due to PDG funding the Countdown to Kindergarten program was able to add 553 slots which is a 52% increase.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan informed the board that she met with Richard Gonzales, Senior Advisor for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families, at Health and Human Services in Washington DC. Ms. Mjartan said the meeting was very positive and believed South Carolina will be a strong competitor for the next round of implementation funds for the Preschool Development Grant. Ms. Mjartan said the Notice of Funding will be out Fall 2019, and the ECAC will need to vote at the August 15 meeting whether to apply or not. Ms. Williams asked who the applicant would be, and Ms. Mjartan replied that there seemed to be consensus that DSS would be the lead applicant again with support from SC First Steps, Department of Education, and Head Start Collaboration, among other agencies.

Ms. Barber introduced Ms. Laura Baker on May 17, 2019 as the ECAC Communications Coordinator.

Ms. Barber also invited committee members to participate in the planning of the SC Summit on Early Childhood. Ms. Barber said the event's theme is the "Economics of Early Childhood".

Ms. Barber briefed the group on the happenings of the Palmetto Pre-K Outreach and Enrollment Committee and the successful Palmetto Pre-K jamboree.

With no further business, Mr. Tim Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Dr. Shelley Canright. The motion as approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.