



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
October 24, 2019
Immediately following the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting
Graduate Columbia, 1619 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (Julie Hussey)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.
- II. Approve August 15, 2019 Minutes (Julie Hussey)
Attachments: August 15, 2019 Minutes
- III. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)
Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report and Minutes
- IV. Update on Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee
Attachments: South Carolina Early Childhood State and Federal Funding One-Pager, Summit Sponsorship Update, Breakout Session Listing, Sponsorship Packet
- V. Early Childhood Study Committee
Attachments: Meeting Agenda
- VI. New Early Childhood Advisory Council Logo
- VII. Adjourn



Board of Trustees Meeting

August 15, 2019

2:00 PM

Conference America – Phone Meeting / GotoWebinar Screening

1-888-537-7715

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (16):

Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Representative Rita Allison
Senator Gerald Malloy
Shelley Canright
Walter Fleming Jr.
Representative Jerry Govan
Tim Holt
Mary Lynne Diggs
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Jennifer McConnell
Roger Pryor
Mike Leach
Sue Williams
Mary Poole
David Mathis

Members Absent (4):

Rick Toomey
Alexia Newman
Amy Williams
Josh Baker

Others present:

Georgia Mjartan	Sharon Thomas
Samantha Ingram	Leigh D'Amico
Zack Catoe	Megan Finneran
Mark Barnes	Alexis Pipkins
Debbie Robertson	Rosemary Patterson
Chelsea Richard	Pierce McNair
Pat West	Delores Rock
Jim Riddle	Vasanthi Rao
Christina Davis	Jon Artz
Betty Gardiner	Janet Richard
Cassie Barber	Dorothy Priester
Beth Moore	



Call to Order/Quorum Call

Ms. Julie Hussey called the Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

Dr. Shelley Canright introduced a motion to approve the meeting agenda as written. Senator Greg Hembree provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting opened for public comment. No members of the public present wished to speak.

Ms. Sue Williams made a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes as written. Senator Hembree provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Hussey introduced Ms. Megan Finneran, who was in attendance representing Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette.

Ms. Hussey then introduced Ms. Christina Davis, a 5K Teacher at Red Bank Elementary, along with Mr. Jim Riddle, Executive Director of Lexington County First Steps, and Ms. Janet Richard, Principal of Red Bank Elementary. Ms. Davis then presented to the group about her experience as a Countdown to Kindergarten teacher during the summer of 2019.

Ms. Hussey acknowledged the work of the local partnerships and their many accomplishments with localized programs such as Countdown to Kindergarten.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan encouraged the board to think about the agency's budget request and the desire to expand programs, such as Countdown to Kindergarten, and open the door for more opportunities at the local level. Ms. Mjartan noted that through the Preschool Development Grant, funds were awarded to expand the Countdown to Kindergarten program in 2019 to reach 500 more rising kindergarteners.

Senator Hembree asked how teachers and clients learn about this program in order to participate. Ms. Mjartan responded and said the program is voluntary for both the teacher and the parent, and that Local First Steps partnerships work with school districts to recruit teachers and clients.

Mr. Riddle stated that he works with 47 teachers in 37-39 schools across all five school districts in Lexington County.

Ms. Mjartan then introduced Dr. Leigh D'Amico of the Research, Evaluation and Measurement Center at the University Of South Carolina College Of Education who presented the Draft South Carolina Early Childhood Needs Assessment to the group.

Ms. Hussey thanked Dr. D'Amico for her presentation and called for a motion on the future work of the Preschool Development Grant.

Sen. Hembree introduced a motion to recommend that the Governor's Office designate SC Department of Social Services as the lead applicant for the State of South Carolina for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal Grant, working collaboratively to develop and implement the project with SC First Steps, the SC Department of Education, the Head Start Collaboration Office, and other partners. The motion was followed by a second from Dr. Canright and approved unanimously.

Due to technical difficulties, Ms. Hussey relinquished her duties as chair to Dr. Canright.



Ms. Mjartan briefed the group on the work the SC First Steps board, Early Childhood Advisory Council and various other state agencies and non-profit organizations to create a web portal to help all families find subsidized services. Ms. Mjartan noted that this integrated platform is in the development phase, but once finalized will allow families to search types of services such as, health and safety programs, home-visitation programs, special-needs programs, and early education programs.

Ms. Mjartan thanked Mad Monkey for designing the First Five logo and their work building the website, along with the agency heads who have designated an outreach or communications member to attend the First Five meetings.

Ms. Angel Johnson-Brebner made the motion to say that: The Early Childhood Advisory Council commits to providing an organizational home for "First Five South Carolina," including hosting, maintaining, and co-promoting First Five South Carolina, the state's comprehensive early childhood portal, a one-stop shop for families to learn about and access federal, state and local early childhood programs. First Five South Carolina will improve coordination and delivery of early childhood education and development to children in South Carolina and will provide a unified, cross-agency mechanism to increase the overall participation of children in existing federal, state and local child care and early childhood education and development programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations. Mr. Mike Leach provided the second.

Senator Hembree asked if there would be adequate funding to sustain the First Five web portal.

Ms. Mjartan replied that, through the Preschool Development Grant, funding is available for the first year, but that a request for renewal of the grant funding would be made. Ms. Mjartan said that ultimately the Early Childhood Advisory Council will go to the General Assembly to ask for funding for this project.

The group discussed the importance of how the information collected through such a portal would allow agencies to better share data with each other, making systems easier to navigate.

After no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Cassie Barber then briefed the group on the 2019 SC Summit on Early Childhood and said this year's theme would be on the economics of early childhood with Mr. Rob Grunewald, an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, as a keynote speaker. Ms. Barber thanked BB&T for being a presenting sponsor and Lt. Governor Evette and Representative Rita Allison for agreeing to host the event.

Dr. Canright pointed the group to the event's Save the Date card in their packet.

With no further business, Senator Hembree made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Representative Jerry Govan. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.



Interagency Collaboration Committee
Minutes
September 3, 2019

Present: David Mathis, SC Department of Education, Chair; Michele Bowers, DSS; Georgia Mjartan, First Steps; Jennifer Buster, DHHS; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Stephanie Frazier, SC-ETV; Sue Williams, The Children's Trust; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health

Absent: Mary Poole, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Nick Davidson, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Leesa Aiken, SC State Library

Staff: Cassie Barber, First Steps

Guests: Quincie Moore, SDE; Chelsea Richard, First Steps; Betty Gardiner, First Steps; Laura Baker, First Steps

Chair David Mathis convened the meeting at 1:30 PM welcoming new members from Department of Mental Health, SC-ETV, and the Commission on Higher Education. The SC State Library has also agreed to join the committee, but no representative was able to attend this meeting. For the benefit of the new members, Dr. Mathis, together with Georgia Mjartan, reviewed the purpose and goals of the committee along with the committee's operational guidelines.

Chelsea Richard, Strategic Impact Manager at First Steps, and Betty Gardiner, presented information about the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant that the SC Department of Education plans to submit in collaboration with a variety of state level partners including SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, the SC Department of Social Services, SC First Steps and the University of South Carolina. The grant would extend the current SLDS to incorporate pre-K programs and enable access to data that can indicate the effectiveness of these programs.

Following discussion of the grant specifics members agreed to commit, as a committee of the ECAC, to leading the establishment of the data governance needed. A draft letter of support to Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman was distributed. Members were requested to review the letter and provide any needed changes to Cassie Barber within a week's time. Dr. Mathis will sign the letter on behalf of all committee members and deliver to Superintendent Spearman.

Ms. Barber provided a visual and verbal update on the progress of the Preschool Development grant. She noted that part one the statewide needs assessment is nearly completed and reflects the voices of nearly 4,000 stakeholders including parents, caregivers and community members. Part two of the assessment will be reflective of the input from state level agencies and leaders. She also noted that the application for the competitive renewal grant for the next three years is expected to be released soon and will be awarded by the end of 2019.

Sue Williams has been appointed as a member of the General Assembly's Early Childhood Study Committee. Ms. Williams gave an update on the membership and charge to this committee, which is to explore the possibility of merging several early childhood service providers into a single new agency within the Governor's office.

Members discussed ways in which they might further collaborate including the possibility of collective budget requests to the General Assembly.

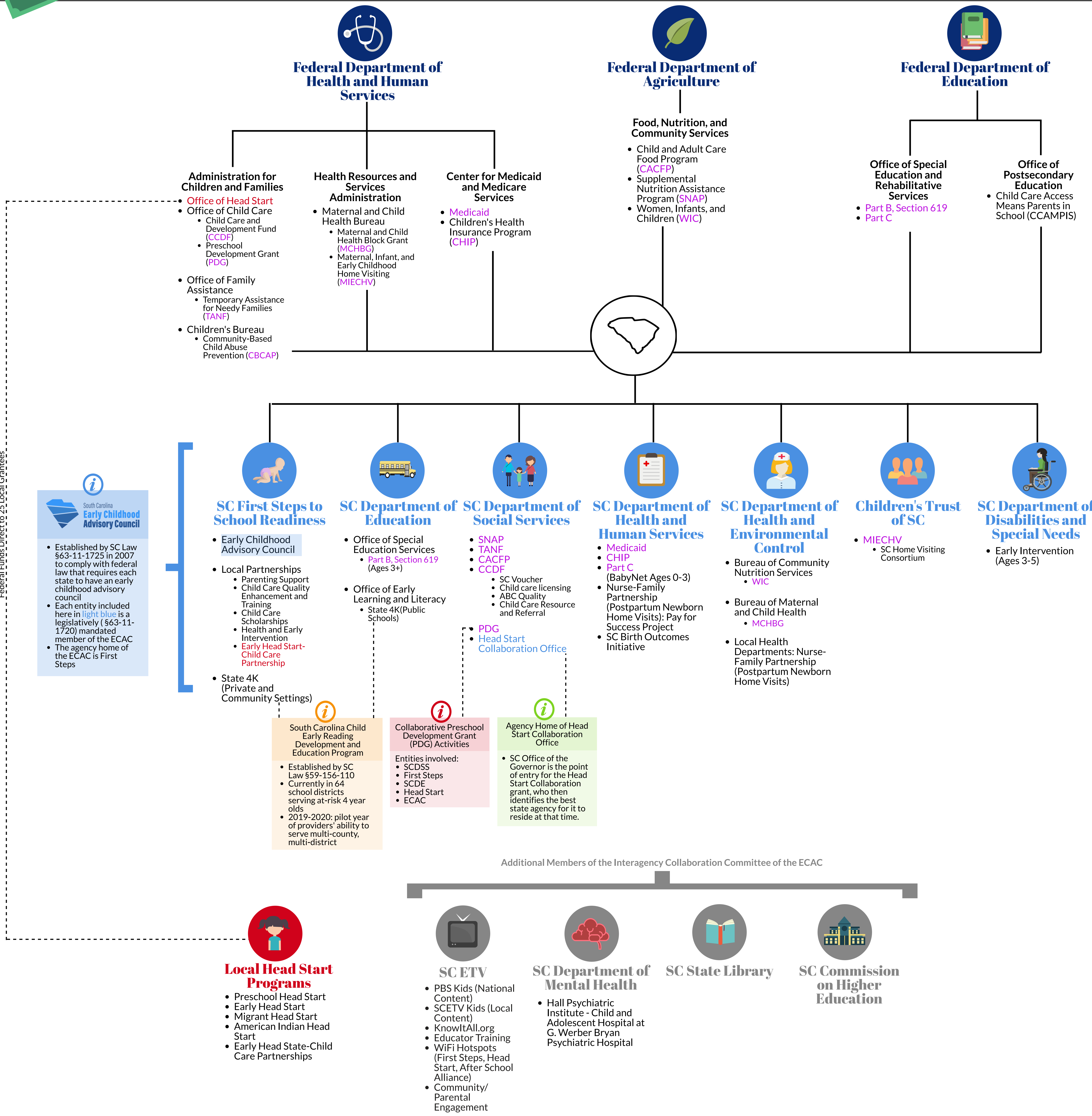


The SC Summit on Early Childhood will be held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The Summit is an activity of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, coordinated by SC First Steps.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee will meet bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Next meeting dates: November 5, 2019, January 7, 2020; March 3, 2020; May 5, 2020.

Flow of State and Federal Funds into the South Carolina Early Childhood State System

Federal Funds Direct to 25 Local Grantees





SC Summit on Early Childhood – Sponsorship Commitments October 18, 2019

Organization	Amount
BB&T	\$10,000
Head Start Collaboration Office	\$1,000
Children's Trust of South Carolina	\$5,000
SC DHHS	\$10,000
DSS	\$7,500
ETV	\$2,500
Kaplan	\$1,500
Lakeshore	\$1,500
DDSN	\$1,500
Dave Morley	\$2,500
SC Department of Education	\$5,000
Total	\$48,000



**2019 Summit on Early Childhood
Presenters/Breakouts
Updated October 18, 2019**

Keynote Presentations:

Rob Grunewald - Investing in South Carolina's workforce infrastructure: Early care and education as economic development
Liz Huntley - Title TBA

Breakout Sessions:

Each Keynote Speaker will participate in a "Conversation with the Keynote" breakout session which will be an intimate opportunity for attendees to learn more from the speaker.

Early Childhood: A Public Health Perspective (Host: Chelsea Richards)

Public health and medical professionals discuss the maternal and child health challenges experienced from our rural communities to our urban centers in South Carolina and beyond. These leading scholars will present the effect of various health disparities, as well as highlight the economic impact of these issues from prenatal experiences to childhood trauma. Finally, South Carolina's first State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan will be presented, with a spotlight on its "Resilient Children" priority.

Panelists: Dr. Judy Burgis, Professor and Chair of Clinical OB/GYN and Director of Pediatric and Adolescent Division, University of South Carolina School of Medicine; Dr. Elizabeth Crouch, Deputy Director, Rural and Minority Health Research Center and Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health; Dr. Peiyin Hung, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health; Dr. Aditi Srivastav, Research and Community Impact Manager, Children's Trust of South Carolina; Dr. Rick Foster, Executive Director, Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina

Economics of Father Absence (Host: Dione Brabham)

Patrick Patterson, title? – SC Center for Fathers and Families) \$500 + travel)

The presenters will discuss the economic implications of the absent father on children, families and the state. The Center will share research about the absent father's impact on the state's economy. Effective tools, tips and agency tactics to engage fathers and minimize barriers to father-child relationships will be shared.

Kinship Care and Child Development (Host: Janice Kilburn)

This session will provide an avenue for advocates for kinship care families and kinship caregivers to promote awareness of the age-old phenomena of blood and/or fictive kin raising children without the biological parents being in the home. Panelists will share their personal and employment experiences around kinship care and emphasize the importance of a collaborative system to aid caregivers in maintaining a thriving living environment for them and the children in their care. In addition to sharing information, this session is intended to begin to build a community around kinship care for the purpose of children having a healthy, safe, and well-functioning living experience.

The Business of Early Childhood Education and Care: A Community Palaver (Hosts: Debbie & Kim)

Palaver: A village council meeting; a conversation between persons of different cultures or levels of sophistication

The purpose of this session is to bring together early childhood stake holders, including community members, early childhood business owners/providers, and parents of young children to engage in a communal conversation/palaver to share ideas, experiences, and wisdom about the "Business of Early Childhood Education and Care". Participants will join our invited guests in a community circle



conversation addressing guiding questions focused on the ways in which various communities are addressing costs, business models, and collaborative efforts to provide culturally responsive, quality early education and care to young children in the state of South Carolina.

Kids Count Too: The Cost and Consequence of Children 0-5 and the 2020 Census (Host: Debbie)

The small investment of the ten minutes it takes to complete the 2020 census means big money for South Carolina for the next ten years. A panel of Census advocates will discuss the financial implications of an accurate count. Small groups will design an outreach strategy to reach those who care for our hardest to count population, children ages 0-5. (Facilitated by: Debbie Robertson (SC First Steps), Mary Dell Hayes, SC Counts 2020 Project Manager (United Way Association of SC))

Children under five run the greatest risk of being undercounted in the 2020 Census. Within this group, children in low-income families and children of color are even more likely to be missed. The [Partnership for America's Children](#) reports that the 2010 Census failed to account for more than 10% of all young children in the United States, including more than 11,000 children in South Carolina.

Undercounting young children has serious consequences for families and communities. Conservative estimates suggest that in the last decade, South Carolina has lost \$9,158,689 per year in federal funds designated for children's programs. That's a total loss of nearly \$92 million over 10 years.

Building Comprehensive and Collaborative Early Childhood Systems in SC (Hosts- Kate Roach & Gina Beebe)

Across South Carolina, state programs are engaged in collaborative efforts to increase the quality, alignment, and efficiency of early childhood systems to support child care providers and the children in their care. In this panel, you will hear about these exciting and innovative efforts as panelists will describe South Carolina's first early childhood workforce registry, the newly revamped ABC Quality, South Carolina's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), and the statewide implementation of the Pyramid Model, a framework to promote the social-emotional development of infants, young children, and their families.

Bridging the Gap between Men and Early Childhood Education Roles (Host: Jon)

Join us for an engaging discussion led by a panel that will explore the gap between men and the roles they hold in early childhood education. The main goal of the session will be to identify and address the barriers in order to encourage and empower more men to join the field of early childhood education as positive leaders and role models.

Providing Support for the Early Education of Homeless and Migrant Children (Host: Jon)

We will explore the challenges facing homeless and migrant children in our state through the lens of early education as well as considering economic and other factors that highlight the importance of providing support to these vulnerable populations.

The Economics of Early Childhood for Working Parents (Host: Jon & Beth)

This session will provide an in depth look at how family friendly policies in the workplace can support the financial well-being of families with young children and the larger economy by exploring the experiences of large businesses, small companies, and working parents.

Business and Early Education Panel Discussion – more information TBA



2019 SC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

*The Economics of Early Childhood:
Strong Kids for a Strong Economy*

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Presented by:

BB&T

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
MEDICAID 

COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER

1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC

REGISTER AT: SCFIRSTSTEPS.ORG/2019SUMMIT

Hosted by



South Carolina
Early Childhood
Advisory Council

Sponsor and Exhibitor Invitation

2019 SC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Established in 2015, the SC Summit on Early Childhood provides early childhood professionals and advocates, parents, members of the business community and elected officials an open platform to share strategies, research and dialogue in order to foster a strong foundation for the children of South Carolina. The SC Summit has garnered a glowing reputation as a can't-miss event! Last year's Summit was attended by more than 500 people representing a wide variety of early childhood advocates including early childhood educators, parent educators, Head Start professionals, directors of non-profits, Early Childhood Advisory Council members, elected officials and others.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

SPONSORSHIP	GIVING LEVEL	BENEFITS*
PRESENTING	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speaker introduction 12 Summit tickets with VIP Seating Full-page program space for ad or article Premier signage, slide loop, website and program acknowledgment Recognition at general session & lunchtime remarks VIP exhibit space
PLATINUM	\$7,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half-page program space for ad Signage, slide loop, website and program acknowledgment 8 Summit tickets with VIP seating Recognition at general session & lunchtime remarks VIP exhibit space
GOLD	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter-page program space for ad Signage, slide loop, website and program acknowledgment 6 Summit tickets Recognition during general session & lunchtime remarks Preferred exhibit space
SILVER	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage, slide loop, website and program acknowledgment 4 Summit tickets Recognition during lunchtime remarks Exhibit space
BRONZE	\$1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage, slide loop, website and program acknowledgment 2 Summit tickets Recognition during lunchtime remarks Exhibit space

* *Tickets and benefits may be declined or donated upon request.*

EXHIBITOR LEVELS

NON-PROFIT/ AGENCY	\$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One exhibitor ticket which includes a grab and go breakfast and buffet lunch. Additional tickets are available for \$30 each. Six foot table and one chair. (Bring your own covering.) Name listed as an exhibitor on program Opportunity to interact with 500+ early childhood professionals/advocates
FOR-PROFIT	\$200	

2019 SC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Presented by: **BB&T**
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
MEDICAID

December 6, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Rob Grunewald is an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Grunewald conducts research on community development and regional economic issues. He co-authored “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return” in 2003 and has written several subsequent articles on the economic and social impact of early learning. He frequently speaks to community and business leaders, policymakers, and media throughout the United States.

Grunewald has served on boards and advisory committees for organizations involved with early childhood development, including Think Small: Leaders in Early Learning, First Children’s Finance, and the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency. He is also a past president of the Minnesota Economic Association. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and religion from St. Olaf College and a master’s degree in applied economics from the University of Minnesota.



Elizabeth “Liz” Huntley is an ardent and effective advocate for early childhood, who serves on the boards of the Alabama Children First foundation and the Alabama School Readiness Alliance (ASRA) where she is a member of the Pre-K Task Force. Since 2006, the ASRA has led statewide efforts to advocate for the expansion of First Class Pre-K, which is rated #1 in quality by NIEER. In the 2018-2019 school year, 32 percent of all four-year-olds in Alabama were served by the program in 1045 classrooms across the state.

Huntley is an experienced civil litigator who provides legal and consulting services to government and nonprofit agencies that serve children and families. As someone whose childhood was tainted by poverty and other challenges, Huntley has become a well-known motivational speaker who challenges audiences to adopt her “no excuses” philosophy. Her talks frequently draw from her memoir, *More Than a Bird*, which recounts her childhood journey from unimaginable darkness to radiance.

REGISTER AT: SCFIRSTSTEPS.ORG/2019SUMMIT

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South Carolina
**Early Childhood
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2019 SC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Presented by: **BB&T**
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
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December 6, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Thank you for sponsoring the 2019 SC Summit on Early Childhood co-hosted by SC First Steps and the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council. Please see the Sponsorship Levels page in this packet for benefits and complete the form below or the online application at SCFirstSteps.org/2019Summit. This form may be submitted by mail, email or in-person to the contact information below. Thank you for helping make this impactful conference possible!

Payment is expected prior to the Summit and needed by November 1 for acknowledgement on printed materials.

Remit forms and payment to:

SC First Steps
Attention: Accounts Receivable
1300 Sumter Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Summit@scfirststeps.org

\$ _____ / _____
(Amount) (Sponsorship level)

- Payment type:
- Check is enclosed
 - Purchase order # _____
 - Please email me an invoice, so a purchase order can be created.
 - Interdepartmental transfer (IDT)

Company/Agency/Program	
Contact Person	
Job Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State Zip Code	

Please list below attendee names that will use the tickets allotted for your sponsorship level.

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South Carolina
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2019 SC SUMMIT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Presented by: **BB&T**
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Healthy Connections
MEDICAID

December 6, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

EXHIBITOR FORM

Thank you for your interest in exhibiting at the 2019 SC Summit on Early Childhood. One chair and six-foot table will be provided—be sure to bring your own table covering. Requests for specific locations will be considered but not guaranteed. Please complete the form below or the online application at SCFirstSteps.org/2019Summit and submit it by mail, email or in-person to the contact information below. Space is limited, so please apply early.

Remit forms and payment to:
 SC First Steps
 Attention: Accounts Receivable
 1300 Sumter Street
 Columbia, SC 29201
Summit@scfirststeps.org

Payment type: Check is enclosed
 Purchase order # _____
 Please email me an invoice, so a purchase order can be created.
 Interdepartmental transfer (IDT)

Payment must be received prior to the event and by November 1 for recognition on printed materials.

Company/Agency/Program	
Contact Person	
Job Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Address1	
Address2	
City, State Zip Code	
Name of Exhibitor staff <small>Fee includes (1) Exhibitor ticket</small>	
# Additional Exhibit Staff _____ tickets needed (\$30 each)	Additional Exhibitor name(s):

Non-Profit Exhibitor - **\$100** For-Profit Exhibitor - **\$200** + \$30 for each add'l exhibit staff \$ _____

REGISTER AT: SCFIRSTSTEPS.ORG/2019SUMMIT

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South Carolina
**Early Childhood
 Advisory Council**

Early Childhood Education Study Committee

Senator Scott Talley, *Co-Chair*
Senator Thomas McElveen
Senator Ross Turner
Representative Rita Allison, *Co-Chair*
Representative Jerry Govan
Representative Paula Calhoon
Representative Neal Collins

Honorable Pamela Evette
Ms. Melanie Barton
Mr. Floyd Creech
Ms. Sue Williams

J. Mason Thomas, *Director of Research*
H. Pierce McNair, Jr., *Director of Research*

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
10:00 AM
Room 433 – Blatt Building

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Georgia Mjartan - Executive Director, SC First Steps
- III. Discussion on Program Funding
- IV. Adjourn

Staff Contact:

Mason Thomas - (803) 212-6320
Pierce McNair - (803) 734-3053