



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

December 5, 2019

Immediately following adjournment of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting

Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church
1500 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

MINUTES

Members Present (14):

Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Representative Jerry Govan
Shelley Canright
Tim Holt
Mary Lynne Diggs
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Jennifer McConnell
Roger Pryor Jr.
Sue Williams
Mary Poole
David Mathis
Rick Toomey
Amy Williams
Alexia Newman

Members Absent (9):

Dave Morley, Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Representative Rita Allison
Senator Gerald Malloy
David Mathis
Walter Fleming Jr.
Josh Baker
Mike Leach
Roger Pryor Jr.

Others Present:

Georgia Mjartan
Samantha Ingram
Zack Catoe
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes
Betty Gardiner
Beth Moore
Jonathan Artz
Zack Catoe
Carletta Isreal
Chelsea Richard
Pamela Gillam
Lavinia Tejada
Tammy Compton
Beth Moore
Kristine Jenkins

Martha Strickland
Marcia Bacon
Micah Rea
Pierce McNair
Amber Gillum
Michelle Bowers
Jenny May
Jennifer Bishop
Anna Workman
Suzanne McGougan
Cindy Ellis
Meada Fogle
Jennifer Williams
Tiffany Outlaw
Shayla Pettigrew
Garrett Bowman

Ms. Julie Hussey called the Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Dr. Rick Toomey introduced a motion to approve the meeting agenda as written. Ms. Angel Johnson-Brebner provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shelley Canright made a motion to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes as written. Ms. Johnson-Brebner provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.



Ms. Sue Williams gave a report on the Early Childhood Study Committee. Ms. Williams stated that the committee sent a request to all agency heads of child-serving agencies to report federal funding streams in order to better understand any duplicative funds coming into to South Carolina.

Ms. Williams noted that the committee would continue to meet in 2020.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan recognized Ms. Garrett Bowman, with Teaching Strategies, and thanked him for his participation in the 2019 Summit on Early Childhood and his assistance with the Ready Rosie program.

Ms. Mjartan also thanked Ms. Jenny May with the SC Department of Education and Ms. Michele Bowers with the SC Department of Social Services for their attendance and for being partners of the ECAC.

Ms. Mjartan then gave the report for the Interagency Collaboration Committee. Ms. Mjartan briefed the group on the Preschool Development Grant process and timeline. Ms. Mjartan noted that should SC receive additional funding from the renewal grant application it would provide for long-term government infrastructure for The First Five and Palmetto Pre-K web portals. Ms. Mjartan reminded the group that the ECAC would be the home for all projects under the Preschool Development Grant umbrella.

Ms. Mjartan gave updates on the Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree professional development opportunities held throughout the state this year.

Ms. Mjartan then briefed the group on PalmettoPre-K.org and said it was a joint initiative between SC First Steps, SC Department of Education, Head Start, and SC Department of Social Services and Child Care Resource and Referral and a product of Preschool Development Grant funding.

Ms. Mjartan explained that the Palmetto Pre-K web portal was the one-stop shop for caregivers to find statewide subsidized preschool programs for three and four-year-old children. Ms. Mjartan then gave a demonstration on how the web portal worked.

Ms. Mjartan reminded the group on the 2019 Summit on Early Childhood happening the following day. Ms. Mjartan stated that through partnerships with the ECAC and other early childhood stakeholders, over \$56,000 in sponsorships were raised for this annual event.

Ms. Julie Hussey thanked Mad Monkey for their critical support in getting PalmettoPre-K.org off the ground and running for SC caregivers and young children. She also noted that the web portal would officially launch at the Summit.

With no further business, Ms. Hussey adjourned the meeting at 4:01.