



SC Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Virtual (via Zoom)

Council Members Present (15): David Morley (Chairman), Tony Catone, Jacque Curtin, Mary Lynne Diggs, Sen. Jason Elliott, John Hayes, Sen. Greg Hembree, David Lisk, Dorothy Priester, Roger Pryor, Mary Anne Scott, Dr. Ed Simmer, Dr. Amy Williams (Vice Chair), Sue Williams, Wes Wooten

Council Members Absent (9): Rep. Terry Alexander, Dr. Robert Bank, Shannon Erickson, Dr. Matthew Ferguson, Constance Holloway, Jessica Mackey, Jack McBride, Eunice Medina, Janie Neeley

Others Present (70): Ann Vandervliet, Alexis D. Pipkins, Amber Gillum, Amira Hulwe, Amy Breault, Betty Gardiner, Betty Washington, Candi Lalonde, Caroline Goins, Carrie Turner, Charshina McMillian, Chelsea Adamson, Cindy Galloway, Darnell Byrd McPherson, David O'Kelly, Derrek Cromwell, Kristen Martocchio, Dwana Doctor, Elmire Raven, Emily Prillaman, Emma Matzko, Felicia C. Patrick, Hannah Espeleta, Ivory Mitchell, Jade Wright, Jaiden Branch, Jenny May, Joy Mazur, Julia A. Nelson, Julia Nelson, Karen Oliver, Kate Roach, Kathy Jenkins, Kaylee Osbon, Kenna Hoover, Kerry Cordan, Kim Trudell, Kristine Jenkins, LaMyra Sanders-Dukes, Laura Baker, Lekecia Clemons, Linda Gabriel Doherty, Loreal Nelms-Howard, LaMyra Sanders, Melanie Barton, Melissa Johnson, Melissa Roper, Molly Tuck, Naya Hall, Paige Wall, Pauletta Plowden, Peyton Mosher, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Sally McClellan, Samantha Ingram, Santasha Highley, Sarah Eargle, Shante Burton, Shayla Pettigrew, Stacy Greenwalt, Sue Graham, Tanesha Sullivan, Tamatha Kohler, Tekethia Burrell, Tomeiko, Victoria Belin, Wanda Gonzalez, Winzai Amadi

The meeting was called to order at 2:44 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Director Catone provided the motion, seconded by Superintendent Weaver. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the April 17, 2025, minutes. Mr. Lisk provided the motion, seconded by Superintendent Weaver. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications Director Beth Moore provided an update on collaborative efforts by communication leaders from ECAC and Interagency Collaboration Committee agencies to share the First Five SC, Palmetto Pre-K and Ready for Kindergarten initiatives.

Updates were shared from ECAC agencies:

Dr. Simmer share that the Department of Public Health has three mobile health units that can be reserved to be a part of events across the state. He also shared that the entire agency, save a few special services, has completed the move Cayce.

Mr. Catone share that it was too early to assess the impact of the funding changes on early childhood activities.

Ms. Weaver shared that the Department of Education also has a goal of 75 percent for the state's third grade proficiency by 2030. She was encouraged by First Steps' Letters training.

Ms. Williams encouraged local partnerships to participate in the online Triple P program funded by AmeriHealth. She encouraged partners to participate in the Home Visiting Summit in September.

SCDSS Deputy State Director Economic Services Amber Gillum, ICC Chair, share that the ICC was working on the SC Birth through Five Plan: 2025 Progress Report and should have a report at the December meeting.

Ms. Vandervliet reported on the activities of the ECAC. First Five SC has a new messaging system to prompt parents to complete their applications and Palmetto Pre-K Enrollment Day enjoyed very good participation. She shared information on an upcoming study on the Early Childhood Integrated Data System and a landscape analysis being conducted on plans and reports..

Dr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sen. Hembree. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.