Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
April 15, 2021, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

<u>AGENDA</u>

I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
 Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

II. Approve February 18, 2021 Minutes (David Morley)
 Attachments: February 18, 2021 Minutes
 Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting.

III. Consent Agenda: **Motions Recommended by Committees** (David Morley)
 a. Motion for the approval to allow the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council to serve as the governing body for Early Childhood System Data Governance, including staffing these efforts, as outlined in the attached framework. (Executive Committee recommends)
 b. Motion for the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council to adopt as its fourth system goal the following: South Carolina's Early Childhood System is aligned, coordinated, and family centered. (Executive Committee recommends)

IV. Progress Update: Building South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (Bill Potapchuk and Mary Beth Salomone Testa)

V. First 5 SC and Palmetto PreK (Tom Lacas and Jessica Garrett, 37 Gears)

VI. Childcare Development Fund State Plan (Director Mike Leach, DSS)

VII. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)
 Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report & Recap

VIII. Adjourn
 Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
February 18, 2021, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/92434118920?pwd=VzAwYUFWblhMMjFiWlBITG5YWWZZQT09

Draft Minutes

Members Present (16):

Dave Morley, Chair	Walter Fleming	
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	Tim Holt	
Sen. Greg Hembree	Roger Pryor	
Dr. David Mathis	Jennifer McConnell	
Mary Lynne Diggs	Jesica Mackey	
Sue Williams	John Hayes	
Michael Leach	Janie Neeley	
Dr. Edward Simmer		
Thomas Phillip		

Members Absent (6):

Rep. Rita Allison
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Rep. Jerry Govan
Dr. Amy Williams
Alexia Newman
Mary Poole

Others Present (89)

Georgia Mjartan	Dione Brabham	Kim Trudell	Sarah Eargle
Avian Jones	Dorian Young	Kristin Zeaser Sydow	Shamika Dukes
Zack Catoe	Candi Lalonde	Kristine Jenkins	Sharon Bruton
Audrey McClary	Ellen Hamilton	Lareece Mack	Shayla Pettigrew
Frederick Fuller	Emily Parish	Laura Baker	Sheila Cornwell
Anna Workman	Felicia Patrick	Lavinia Tejada	SheKiah Reese
Barbara Marshall	Gina Beebe	Leigh D'Amico	Tierra Thomas
Beth Moore	Ginger Ryall	Lindsay Porter	Tiffany Outlaw
Beth Reilly	Janice Kilburn	Lis Guimaraes	Valencia Johnson
Betty Gardiner	Jennifer Williams	Loretta Parker	Valerie Johnson
Beverly Brockington	Jill Brady	Maria Green	Patti Wilkes
Betty Washington	Jon Artz	Mark Barnes	Bill Potapchuk
B Manoski	Joy Mazur	Martha Strickland	Angelia Turner
Carletta Isreal	Julie Hussey	Mary Beth Testa	Linnie Miller
Chelsea Richard	Justina Siuba	Mary Ellen Warren	Gary Jones
Cheryl Scales-Chavis	Karen Oliver	Terry McLean	Sandra Meadows
Cindy Ellis	Kaytlen Caldwell	Nancy Ziobro	Breonna Weaver
Cindy Galloway	Keisha Gray	Nur Tanyel	Misty Pearson
Cindy Riley	Kenny Smith	Pauletta Plowden	Sonia Gass
Constance Martin-Witter	Kerrie Schnake	Tammy Compten	Dolores Steglin
Crystal Campbell	Kim Archung	Rachal Hatton-Moore	
Debbie Robertson	Kim Charika	Reginald Williams	
Rogers Pender	Ryan Shinn	Samantha Ingram	

1300 Sumter Street | Concord Building, Suite 100 | Columbia, South Carolina 29201
phone 803.734.0479   fax 803.734.1431   scfirststeps.org

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Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley requested a motion to approve the December 4, 2020 minutes. Dr. Canright provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan provided an introduction of Bill Potapchuk and Mary Beth Salomone Testa, who then presented on developing South Carolina's Birth to Five Plan.

Ms. Siuba provided a presentation on the South Carolina Early Learning Extension and how it impacts her role as the SC First Steps Data Governance Coordinator.

Dr. Mathis presented on the Interagency Collaboration Committee.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Dr. Canright provided a second and the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 4:00 p.m.

1300 Sumter Street | Concord Building, Suite 100 | Columbia, South Carolina 29201
phone 803.734.0479   fax 803.734.1431   scfirststeps.org

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MOTION

The South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council will serve as the governing body for Early Childhood System Data Governance, including staffing these efforts, as outlined in the attached framework.

DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

To accomplish the legislative goals codified in SC State Code (§63-11-1725), particularly goals (4) and (8), the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council will serve as the governing body and venue for collective decision making of the Early Childhood System Data Governance. The Early Childhood System Data Governance will cover data linkage projects funded through both the National Center for Education Statistics' Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant (the South Carolina Early Learning Extension) and the Administration for Children and Families' Preschool Development Grant.

A Data Governance Coordinator will be housed at the ECAC to facilitate the Data Governance Structure for early childhood program data contributions to the Early Learning Extension and the State Data Warehouse. Early childhood programs who contribute data are accountable to the ECAC for the following:

- maintaining individual agreements with the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs for data sharing and integration into the State Data Warehouse
- attending regular project meetings, including annual on-site meetings and monthly meetings by member(s) designated by individual agencies as their representatives
- collecting and sharing data elements as agreed upon by the Parties via the Data Governance Structure
- timely review of research requests
- requiring relevant staff be trained in data quality and system use and hosting trainings for staff and other stakeholders when necessary
- providing accurate technical documentation

The Data Governance Structure will be built so there is an agreement across contributing data sources, but programs and the agencies/organizations that house them will ultimately decide the rules for use of their data. The Data Governance Coordinator will facilitate all work to align at least data across the initial inputs for the Early Learning Extension, link them to K-12 outcomes, and build a portal accessible to stakeholders and the general public by February 2024.

As codified in the SC State Code (§63-11-1725), the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council shall:

1) conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to the age of school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality prekindergarten services for low income children in the State;
2) identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among state agencies responsible for administering these programs;
3) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
4) develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;

5) develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;

6) assess the capacity and effectiveness of two-year and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State for supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which these institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program;

7) make recommendations for improvements in state early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate;

8) develop and publish, using available demographic data, an indicators-based measure of school readiness at the state and community level;

9) incorporate, within the periodic statewide needs assessments required in 42 U.S.C. Section 9837b, any data related to the capacity and efforts of private sector providers, Head Start providers, and local school districts to serve children from birth to age five, including fiscal, enrollment, and capacity data; and

10) perform all other functions, as permitted under federal and state law, to improve coordination and delivery of early childhood education and development to children in this State.

To: Early Childhood Advisory Council
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee
Date: April 15, 2021

RE: Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee

The Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) held its regular bi-monthly meeting on March 2, 2021.

Chair Mathis opened the meeting. Karen Oliver was introduced as the new Program Manager for the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC).

Two projects were discussed during the meeting.

The first project was the work of the South Carolina Early Learning Extension. Justina Siuba, Data Governance Coordinator, provided an overview of the SC Early Learning Extension (SCELE), of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. Siuba is convening data stewards and program leaders from the agencies engaged with SCELE to begin discussions about data governance. **The first meeting was held March 26.** ICC will receive reports and updates about SCELE at each ICC meeting.

On April 12 the SCELE was presented to the Education Oversight Committee. Presenters included SC First Steps staff, Georgia Mjartan and Chelsea Richards, and Department of Education Staff, Ralyea and me.

The second project discussed was the state's Birth through Five plan. Bill Potapchuk, Community Building Institute, shared how the plan will build a coherent framework for our collective efforts to strengthen the early childhood system. The plan will cover Birth through Five with a distinct section focused on Birth through Three.

Potapchuk will be reporting progress on the plan to the ECAC on April 15.

During the agency networking portion of the meeting Head Start reported that a national Head Start director had been selected. At the time of the ICC meeting 15% of Head Start programs were in-person, almost one-half were hybrid and the remainder were operating virtually.

Department of Social Services and South Carolina First Steps 4K are collaborating on a 4K plus Siblings program. The siblings of children eligible for 4K will receive childcare vouchers to attend summer and after-school programs. Only ABC Quality centers are eligible for vouchers.

The next meeting of the Interagency Collaboration Committee is set for May 4, 2021 via Zoom.

1300 Sumter Street • Concord Bldg., Suite 100 • Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Phone 803-734-0479 • Fax 803-734-1431• Web site www.scfirststeps.org

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Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
March 2, 2021

Present: David Mathis, Department of Education, Chair; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Leesa Aiken, State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Lisa Davis for Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; David Morley, Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council
Absent: Stephanie Frazier, SC Educational Television
Guest: Bill Potapchuk, Community Building Institute
Staff: Karen Oliver, Laura Baker, Rachal Hatton, Chelsea Richard, and Justina Siuba, SC First Steps/ECAC

Call to Order and Welcome
David Mathis convened the meeting. Karen Oliver was introduced as the new Program Manager for the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC).

SC Early Learning Extension
Justina Siuba, Data Governance Coordinator, provided an overview of the SC Early Learning Extension (SCELE), of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. The work of the SCELE is to improve outcomes for young children and their families through an aligned system for data-informed decisions and policies. Siuba will be convening data stewards and program leaders from the agencies engaged with SCELE to begin discussions about data governance. Members agreed to include reports and updates about SCELE at each ICC meeting. (An information sheet about SCELE is attached.)

Building South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan
Bill Potapchuk, Community Building Institute, shared the process for developing the state's Birth through Five plan. The plan will build a coherent framework for our collective efforts to strengthen the early childhood system. It will bring together various strategic planning efforts conducted over the past five years into a bold, comprehensive, actionable strategy for our state that includes joint interagency commitments. The plan will cover Birth through Five with a distinct section focused on Birth through Three. (An overview of the plan and process is attached.)

Potapchuk solicited comments and concerns from the ICC through an online platform.

ICC responses to the first question, "What are the most important things to get right in the development of South Carolina's Birth to Five Plan?" included:
- This is the sales document to support investment in early childhood. This must be clear to the advocate and skeptic.
- A plan to reach those who do not have access to online services. A plan to reach those who are undocumented.
- Focus on the needs of the whole child
- Crosswalk between existing agency measures/goals and Birth to Five. Clear communication that this plan does not supersede state or federal requirements for various programs, and isn't meant to redesign agency strategic plans or create additional workload.
- Consideration of health equity and other social norms.

Responses to the second question, "What concerns or advice would you like to share with us?" included:

- This is as much economic analysis as advocacy. We need both sets of skills.
- Engage partner organizations in each community, which may include churches, etc.
- Incorporation/integration of the varied needs assessments that the state is mandated to do (Title V, PDG, MIECHV, etc). Room for future advancement/adjustment pending other plans, cues

In addition to soliciting feedback from a range of stakeholders, workgroups will be organized to develop goals and measurable objectives for the Birth through Five plan.

Cross-sector Collaboration and Updates

Head Start selected a national director. Currently, 15% of Head Start programs are in-person, almost one-half are hybrid and the remainder are operating virtually.

DSS and SCFS are collaborating on a 4K plus Siblings program. The siblings of children eligible for 4k will receive childcare vouchers to attend summer and after-school programs. Only ABC Quality centers are eligible for vouchers.

Children's Trust hosts the Building Hope for Children Conference, March 23-24. The conference is virtual and will feature Anton Gunn, Linda Chamberlain and Angela Davis as keynote speakers.
Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree takes place Friday, March 5.

The Department of Education is transitioning to full-time, in-person learning. Interim assessments suggest students will need mild, moderate or significant remediation to recover from the effects of virtual schooling and the pandemic.

The Department of Disabilities and Special Needs suggested inviting a leader from the SC School for the Deaf and Blind to join the ICC.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of odd months 1:00PM – 2:30PM. Remaining meeting dates for 2021: May 4; July 6; September 7; and November 2.