



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2026

636 Rosewood Drive or Virtual (via Zoom)

Council Members Present: Frances Brown Anderson, Dr. Robert Bank, Anthony Cantone, Jacque Curtin, Mary Lynne Diggs, Dr. James Durant, David Lisk, Jack McBride, Dave Morley (Chair), Roger Pryor, Dr. Edward Simmer, Sue Williams, Wes Wooten

Council Members Absent: Rep. Terry Alexander, Sen. Jason Elliott, Rep. Shannon Erickson, John Hayes, Sen. Greg Hembree, Constance Holloway, Jesica Mackey, Eunice Medina, Ellen Weaver, Dr. Amy Williams

Others Present: Rita Allison, Emika Aroh, Lauren Austin, Amanda Bailey, Gina Beebe, Althea Benson, Amber Bishop, Michelle Bowers, Salandra Bowman, Monica Branton-Pearson, Kippie Brown, John Browne, Tekethia Burrell, Dr. Crystal Campbell, Ashlyn Cobia, Beryl Collington, Kerry Cordan, Sarah Crawford, Dr. Taylor Dee, Linda Doherty, Paul Dowsakul, Robin Ebert, Sheneka Edens, Elliott Epps, Senekita Farmer, Jessica Fluker, Robin Frasier, Stephen Gilchrist, Caroline Goins, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Dorothy Henderson, Kenna Hoover, Samantha Ingram, Kiani J, Kristine Jenkins, Makayla Jones, Angelica Jules, Rosaland Kenner, Janice Kilburn, Deloris Knight, Candi Lalonde, Tamiko Lewis, Karen Martini-Waller, Kristen Martocchio, A Matthews, Joy Mazur, Shica McConner, Ivory Mitchell, Beth Moore, Marcia Nash, Nhi Ngo, Katie Nichols, Tami Nix, David O'Kelly, Karen Oliver, Kaylee Osbon, LaVonda Paul, Shayla Pettigrew, Alexis D. Pipkins, Duchett Polite, Dorothy Priester, Emily Prillaman, Marilyn Pyatt, Austin Reed, Kate Roach, Connie Rouse, Kathy Sanders, LaMyra Sanders, Olivia Sapier, Talisha Scott, Ashlee Simpkins, Martha Strickland, Molly Tuck, Molly Tuck, BJ Tucker, Katrina Valliere, Ann Vandervliet, Angela Walker, Betty Washington, Patti Wilkes, Anita Williams, Taylor Windell, Jade Wright, Tomeiko Wright, Baylis Wright

The meeting was called to order at 3:18 p.m.

Chairman Dave Morley asked for a motion to approve the agenda. David Lisk made the motion, seconded by Dorothy Priester. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2025, minutes. Wes Wooten made the motion, seconded by Jack McBride. The motion was unanimously approved.

Emika Aroh, Chief of Strategy, presented "From the Ground Up: Framing the Next Phase of the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)." He shared that the next goals of ECIDS are to keep the PDT5 dashboard up to date, share key insights among partnering agencies, and to work with the Data Governance Workgroup (DGWG) to define and prioritize a research program to implement. ECAC members can help by speaking with their DGWG representative about their agency's priorities.

Mr. Morley asked if there were agreements created among the members for common data sharing, and Dr. Aroh responded that all members agreed on core data elements during onboarding. Roger Pryor asked if unique student ID numbers are linked and shared between agencies. Dr. Aroh responded that each agency has different ID numbers, so agencies need to transfer data at the child records level. Roger Pryor asked when the system is updated, and Dr. Aroh responded that they are still trying to understand the frequency among different partners.

Ann Vandervliet gave an update on SC's Birth to Five Plan. There will be an update in June with a focus on measurable strategies.

Ann Vandervliet invited agency partners to share updates. Tony Catone, Department of Social Services Director, shared that the Teach Early Childhood scholarship program is celebrating 25 years. DSS received \$5 million in disaster funding for providers who experience damage due to storms. Michelle Bowers, Department of Social Services Program Manager II, shared that the Working Families Childcare scholarship application clause is still in effect and DSS is monitoring for updates. She updated that the ABC Quality review revealed ways to reduce barriers to providers. There will be a pilot with childcare providers to revise standards, and there will be a new attendance audit. Ann Vandervliet gave updates from Children's Trust on behalf of Sue Williams. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and there will be a press conference. Mary Lynne Diggs, SC Head Start Director, shared the SC Head Start Census from May 1, 2025. Head Start and childcare programs will secure \$170 million in FY2026. Dr. Simmer, Department of Public Health Director, shared that maternal mortality rates and measles cases have dropped. Last year, legislature provided \$1.5 million for the Hear Her campaign for pregnant and new moms, so a campaign will be rolled out.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn. David Lisk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jack McBride. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.