



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

August 18, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Members Present (16):

Dave Morley, Chair	Jesica Mackey
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	Dr. David Mathis
Rep. Paula Calhoun	Jennifer McConnell
Jacque Curtin	Alexia Newman
Sen. Greg Hembree	Roger Pryor
Tim Holt	Dr. Edward Simmer
Robert Kerr	Sue Williams
Michael Leach	Dr. Amy Williams

Members Absent (7):

Mary Lynne Diggs
Dr. Michelle Fry
Rep. Jerry Govan
John Hayes
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Janie Neeley
Nicole Wynkoop

Attendees (77)

Georgia Mjartan	Dorian Young	Morgan Maxwell
Avian Jones	Duchette Hylton	Olandor Lewis
Laura Baker	Felicia Battle	Pauletta Plowden
Beth Moore	Jamal Middleton	Rachal Hatton-Moore
Alexis Pipkins	Jennifer Williams	Robin Jackson
Allison Gee	Jenny May	Rogers Pender
Amanda Bailey	Janice Kilburn	Sally Cauthen
Amanda Mitchell	Jon Artz	Samantha Ingram
Amy Engle	Joy Mazur	Santasha Highley
Anastasia Spann	Justina Siuba	Sharon Bruton
Arthur Brewton	Kaitlyn Richards	Shayla Pettigrew
Ashela Hatcher	Karren Oliver	Shealy Riebold
Bettye Bostick	Kate Roach	Shelia Cornwell
Betty Washington	Kathy Fitzgerald	SheKiah Reese
Beverly Booker	Kenna Hoover	Spencer Scott
Bill Simpson	Kerri Schnake	Stacy Greenwalt
Bryan Burroughs	Kerry Cordan	Syntrell Thompson
Carletta Isreal	Kim Trudell	Tiffany Outlaw
Chastine Dickey-Jackson	Kristen Martocchio	Travis Wharton
Chelsea Richard	Kristine Jenkins	Tricia Gordon
Cheryl Scales	LaMyra Sanders	Valencia Johnson
Cindy Galloway	Lexi Jones	
Crystal Campbell	Lis Guimaraes	
Danni Bloom	Marcia Bacon	
Dedra Butler	Mark Barnes	
Denise Savidge	Maria James	
Derek Cromwell	Martha Strickland	
Derek Lewis	Mary Dozier	



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2022 minutes. Dr. Canright provided the motion. Sen. Hembree provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Siuba provided an update on the onboarding process of the SC Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems. Ms. McConnell provided the motion to approve the recommended SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) onboarding process as developed by the Early Learning Extension and Palmetto Drive to Five Data Governance Work Groups. Dr. Canright provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on the usage of the First Five SC website since it's launch.

Mr. Leach provided the following update on the federal stimulus funding and child care activities.

- On July 7, 2022, DSS launched a new funding opportunity for child care providers. This one-time Technology Grant is separate from the SC Building Blocks Stabilization Grant and may be used to purchase equipment or services needed to help support child care business operations and classroom functionality. The deadline to apply for the Technology Grant is August 31, 2022. Additional information and the grant application are available on the DSS Child Care website.
- As of 8/16/22, DSS has approved \$44,490,000 in Technology Grants to approximately 1,250 child care providers.
- On December 7, 2021, DSS launched the initial round of Child Care Stabilization Grants to qualified child care providers. In South Carolina, these stabilizations grants are called "SC Building Blocks". Under the American Rescue Plan, the state was appropriated \$436,582,621 in Child Care Stabilization Funds. 90% of these funds (\$392,924,359) must be spent on grants to qualified child care providers.
- As of 8/16/22, 1,837 child care providers have applied for Round 1 of the SC Building Blocks Grant (91% of potentially eligible). 1,793 applications have been approved, totaling \$212,525,939 for the 12-month grant period.
- On June 1, 2022, DSS launched a second round of SC Building Blocks grants. As of 8/16/22, 1,582 child care providers have applied for Round 2. 1,577 applications have been approved, totaling \$203,300,000.
- Between Round 1 and Round 2, DSS has approved \$414,825,939 in Stabilization Grants to child care providers.
- On October 16, 2020, DSS began offering child care assistance (vouchers) for working parents. In order to qualify, parent income must be at or below 300% FPL, and be working at least 15 hours a week or in school or training program. This category of child care is being provided for up to 52 weeks from the point of approval. Child care providers must be enrolled in ABC Quality to receive vouchers for eligible children.



- As of 8/16/22, 34,631 children have been approved for SC Child Care COVID-300 Vouchers and placed in a slot. Approximately \$419 million has been allocated for these vouchers.

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and shared the milestones that have been accomplished with the work of the SC Birth through Five Plan.

Ms. Williams shared that in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Trust has launched www.scparents.org to help parents locate resources in their communities.

Ms. Mjartan provided a report on the activities of the ECAC.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sen. Hembree provided the motion. Dr. Mathis seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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