



## Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

August 19, 2021, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93597311398?pwd=dkl3MkRKbytrMEtvMHJkQ2JqQWVYUT09>

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (Dave Morley)  
**Motion:** To adopt the agenda as submitted.
  
- II. Meeting Minutes (Dave Morley)  
**Motion:** To approve ECAC Minutes of June 17, 2021  
**Attachment:** June 17, 2021 Minutes
  
- III. South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (Justina Siuba)  
**Motion:** To adopt the following Key Questions for the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System:
  - a. What early childhood programs, statewide, are available for eligible young children?
  - b. How many young children are there?
  - c. How many young children are eligible for early childhood programs?
  - d. How many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs?
  - e. Are those enrolled in early childhood programs on track to succeed?
  - f. What is the return on investment for early childhood programs?**Attachment:** South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System Motion
  
- IV. South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (Bill Potapchuk)
  
- V. Information (Dave Morley)
  - a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee  
**Attachment:** Interagency Collaboration Committee Recap
  - b. ECAC Report on Activities  
**Attachment:** Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
  
- VI. Adjourn (Dave Morley)  
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 17, 2021, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/92196505922?pwd=WnA4MFlYZWJXWmFJU21xK2ZyWndFdz09>

### *Draft Minutes*

#### **Members Present (15):**

Dave Morley, Chair  
Dr. Shelley Canright  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Sue Williams  
Michael Leach  
Dr. Edward Simmer  
Walter Fleming  
Alexia Newman

Tim Holt  
Jessica Mackey  
Roger Pryor  
Jennifer McConnell  
Dr. Amy Williams  
John Hayes

#### **Members Absent (8):**

Rep. Rita Allison  
Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Constance Holloway  
Dr. David Mathis  
Robert Kerr  
Nicole Wynkoop  
Janie Neeley

#### **Others Present (56)**

Georgia Mjartan  
Laura Baker  
Samantha Ingram  
Anna Workman  
Avian Jones  
Betty Gardiner  
Betty Washington  
Candi Lalonde  
Carletta Isreal  
Chelsea Richard  
Cheryl Scales-Chavis  
Cindy Ellis  
Cindy Kellett  
Cindy Galloway  
Clark Phillip  
Debbie Robertson  
Derek Cromwell  
Dione Brabham  
Dorian Young  
Dorothy Priester  
Gina Beebe  
James Hicks  
Janice Kilburn

Jennifer Williams  
Jessica Garrett  
Jon Artz  
Joy Mazur  
Justina Siuba  
Karen Oliver  
Kate Roach  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Kaytlen Caldwell  
Kiara Hopkins  
Kristine Jenkins  
Lavinia Tejada  
Lis Giuamares  
Martha Strickland  
Mary Howard  
Paula Calhoun  
Pierce McNeil  
P. Plowden  
Rachal Hatton-Moore  
Redelona Saxby  
Rogers Pender  
Sarah Crawford  
Sarah Eargle

Sharon Bruton  
Shayla Pettigrew  
Shelia Cornwell  
SheKiah Reese  
Sherry Gilliam  
Tiffany Outlaw  
Tom Lacas  
Tonya Mack  
Teresa Nelson  
Valencia Johnson

Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:24 p.m.



Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Pryor provided the motion. Mr. Hayes provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the purpose, mission, vision, and goals for the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System. Mr. Hayes provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jessica Garrett and Tom Lacas of 37Gears provided a First 5 project timeline and current progress update which included content and data meetings with partner agencies.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the activities of the ECAC. She gave an update on the Birth through Five planning process and reviewed the plans strategic planning timeline from April 2019 to October 2021. Ms. Mjartan shared information on the SC Summit on Early Childhood that will be held on December 2, 2021. She provided an update on sponsors for the Summit. Ms. Mjartan announced that August 19, 2021 will be the final virtual meeting. The October meeting will be held in person.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rep. Govan provided the motion. Dr. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:44 p.m.



## **MOTION**

To adopt the following Key Questions for the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System.

## South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System

### **Details for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System:**

- **Young children** is defined as children under age six in South Carolina.
- **Early childhood programs** is defined broadly, beyond state and federally funded programs.
- Counts seek to identify an **unduplicated number**.
- Questions will be **revisited quarterly** to ensure continued alignment with mission.

### **Key Questions**

1. What early childhood programs, statewide, are available for eligible young children?
2. How many young children are there?
3. How many young children are eligible for early childhood programs?
4. How many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs?
5. Are those enrolled in early childhood programs on track to succeed?
6. What is the return on investment for early childhood programs?



**Interagency Collaboration Committee  
Meeting Recap  
August 3, 2021**

Present: David Mathis, Department of Education, Chair; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Leesa Aiken, State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Dave Morley, Chair, SC First Steps/ECAC

Absent: Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education

Guests: Bill Potapchuk, Community Building Institute and Mary Beth Salomone Testa, MBT Solutions

Staff: Karen Oliver, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Chelsea Richard, Justina Siuba, SC First Steps/ECAC

Call to Order and Welcome

David Mathis convened the meeting.

SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SCEIDS)

Justina Siuba, Data Governance Coordinator, provided an update on Childhood Integrated Data System. Siuba presented a draft set of questions of interest that the SCEIDS should be able to answer. Questions included

- a. What early childhood programs, statewide, are available for eligible young children?
- b. How many young children are there?
- c. How many young children are eligible for early childhood programs?
- d. How many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs?
- e. Are those enrolled in early childhood programs on track to succeed?
- f. What is the return on investment for early childhood programs?

ICC members commented that the questions were high level. There was interest in how return on investment might be investigated, given that returns are found when students are in their teens and early twenties.

The SCEIDS questions will be submitted to the ECAC for their consideration at the August 19 meeting.

Building South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan

Bill Potapchuk, Community Building Institute, and Mary Beth Salomone Testa, MBT Solutions, solicited specific feedback regarding the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Birth through Five Plan.

Points made during the review included:

- Parents not only need access, they also need information and education (for example about safe sleep)
- Preventive care is important
- Providers are needed; staff are needed, and (many are) leaving the field because of COVID

Following discussion Potapchuk polled to see if



- A) The Birth through Five Plan needed significant work
- B) The Birth through Five Plan was on the right track with some changes
- C) The Birth through Five Plan was on the right track with only minor (grammar and language) changes required. Nearly all respondents answered B or C.

#### Cross-sector Collaboration and Updates

- Department of Education awarded ESSER funds to First Steps. During a press conference announcing the award, Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman said, "Covid-19 has intensified the need to support early learners and their families so they are ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. An effective early childhood program builds the foundation for school success and lifelong learning. Georgia Mjartan thanked Dr. David Mathis for his and the Department of Education's support.
- Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and First Steps are engaged in a project supported by The Duke Endowment and the Doris Duke Foundation. The Connecting Families program will offer Parents as Teachers to families with identified through Family Preservation. The project also will offer Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) intervention to families indicating a need for this specific intervention.
- Covid-19 vaccines may be available for 6 -11-year old children by end of calendar year. Children ages 6 months to age 5 might have access to vaccines next summer. The ICC partners all can play a role in vaccine education.
- BabyNet was awarded an American Rescue Plan grant. The grant will be used to improve technology, to provide training, and to recruit and retain service providers.
- The State Library has Day by Day calendars to share. They offer activities for young children. Calendars are available in Spanish. The first printing of the calendar was supported by Head Start. Contact Leesa Aiken if you'd like calendars.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM



## Update on Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council For August 19, 2021

### ECAC Funding

1. SC General Assembly approved funding for ECAC for first time since ECAC established
2. Recurring funds for base costs

### Early Childhood Strategic Plan

1. Work session scheduled August 20, 9:00 AM -Noon  
<https://zoom.us/j/93309377358?pwd=WjgwRnF6dktjd2NvR0tlc0JiSmFoZz09>
2. Public Comment period August 20 – September 10

### Integrated Early Childhood Data

1. Regular reports and updates presented to Interagency Collaboration Committee

### First Five SC (<https://first5sc.org/>)

1. First Five SC team met or collected eligibility criteria from all agencies that are to be included in the portal
  - a. 9 agencies and more than 50 programs represented
2. Eligibility criteria mapping underway
  - a. Verification of mapped criteria scheduled for end of August
3. Website copy and preliminary design to begin in September
  - a. Full launch on track for December 2021.

### Palmetto PreK (<https://palmettoprek.org/>)

1. 62,081 unique website visitors to date (February1, 2020 – July 31, 2021)
  - a. 25% increase from June 8, 2021
2. 8,846 eligible for at least one program
  - a. 26% increase from June 8, 2021
  - b. Head Start eligible: 4,537
  - c. First Steps 4K eligible: 3,720P
  - d. Public school CERDEP eligible: 4,353
  - e. SC DSS voucher eligible: 1,511
3. Fall Jamboree
  - a. Two-day professional development around the theme, “Rooted in Nature: Inspiring Curiosity”
  - b. More than 700 people participated each day



### **Coordination of Two-Generation Work**

The Two-Generation Approach (2Gen), builds family well-being by intentionally working with children and the adults in their lives together, so that whole families have opportunities to reach their full potential and for communities to flourish. Twelve founding members began meeting in 2020, as part of an Office of Population Affairs grant, Expanding Opportunities for Teen Mothers and Young Families in SC, awarded to Fact Forward.

1. 8 new agencies joined the South Carolina Two-Generation Community of Practice,
  - a. Practice community facilitated by Doug Taylor, Fact Forward, with support from Rachal Hatton-Moore, First Steps/ECAC Two-Generation Coordinator
2. Two-Generation Coordinator met with or presented to 99 people about the 2Gen approach since June 2021

### **Family Voice Council**

1. 8 families selected as members
  - a. 6 families completed on-boarding documentation
2. 8-10 more Family Voice Council members will be recruited
3. First (virtual) meeting is planned end of August

### **2021 Summit on Early Childhood**

1. Thursday, December 2, in-person, Columbia Convention Center
  - a. Theme: *From the Start: Prenatal to Three*
2. In process of soliciting exhibitors and final sponsors

### **Grants**

1. Alliance for Early Success Grant
  - a. Grant renewed for 2021-2022; grant increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000
  - b. TA for the following activities and projects are under discussion
    - i. Obtain national expertise and feedback about the SC Birth Through Five Plan and how best to leverage impact among young children (Zero to Three)
    - ii. Review First Steps' proposed research design for child care technical assistance evaluation to regional/national field building (BUILD)
    - iii. Identify opportunities to leverage federal dollars for young children and families (True North Group)
    - iv. Identify opportunities to further the work of SC's Early Care and Education Business Collaboratory (First Children's Finance; Stoney Associates)
    - v. Strengthen statewide 4K's alignment with national standards (NIEER)
2. Preschool Development Grant
  - a. Year 2 funds awarded
    - i. Among the activities listed for ECAC, PDG supports Birth through Five Plan, First Five SC, Palmetto PreK, and Family Voice Council
  - b. Updated Parent Survey posted in July. ECAC member agencies are asked to promote survey and its completion among families with which each partner works
  - c. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) hosting a meeting to discuss integrated data mid-August
  - d. All states' PDG grantees invited to virtual convening October 18-21