



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

August 20, 2020, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95345469770?pwd=ak5KWFc2ZGhNdFR6M3dpciZsWjRIQT09>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.
- II. Approve June 18, 2020 Minutes (David Morley)
Attachments: June 18, 2020 Minutes
- III. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)
Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report and Minutes
- IV. Presentation of Build It Back Better Survey Findings (Chelsea Richard)
- V. Adjourn
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 18, 2020, 2:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98151204375?pwd=cFhQZTd1Snk4YW5GV0NPUVBQZndJQT09>

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (18):

Dave Morley, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Sue Williams
Alexia Newman
Joshua Baker
Tim Holt
Marshall Taylor
Rep. Jerry Govan
Roger Pryor, Jr.

Mary Poole
Michael Leach
Mary Lynne Diggs
Dr. David Mathis
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Sen. Greg Hembree
Dr. Amy Williams
Dr. Shelley Canright
Jennifer McConnell

Members Absent (3):

Rep. Rita Allison
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Walter Fleming

Others Present(58):

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette
Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Samantha Ingram
Betty Gardiner
Joyce Stacey
Chelsea Richard
Laura Baker
Anna Workman
Paula Durham
Kim Archung
Adriana Vidal
Tina Camp
Reginald Williams
Candi Lalonde
Akela Collier
Daniel Ralyea
Kim Trudell
Crystal Campbell
Sally Cauthen
Mimi Frederiksen

Tierra Thomas
Megan Finnern
Janie Quinn
Suzanne McGougan
Shayla Pettigrew
Tonia Stuckey
Joeann Conyers
Veronica Reynolds
Lisa Huff
Carla Brown
Cassie Barber
Cindy Galloway
SheKiah Reese
Janice Kilburn
Barbara Scott
Nancy Ziobro
Kawiana Young
Jon Artz
Spencer Scott
Claudia Dunmore
Cindy Ellis

Carletta Israel
Matthew Ferguson
Kristine Jenkins
Pierce McNair
Christine DiStefano
Fred Greer
Delores Rock
Kristie Bader
Tiffany Outlaw
Bridgett Shealey
Martha Strickland
Darlene Thomas-Burroughs
Sharon Bruton
Maggie Tucker
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Mr. Morley thanked Dr. Toomey for his service on the board and welcomed Mr. Marshall Taylor, the new acting director of DHEC. Mr. Morley discussed to recent newspaper articles where SC First Steps was featured.

Ms. Mjartan asked for a quorum call. Quorum was met.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to approve the April 23, 2020 minutes as written. Mr. Pryor provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Mathis thanked Ms. Barber for her assistance on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and provided a report on the committee.

Ms. Mjartan thanked Lt. Gov. Evette for her commitment to South Carolina's young children and their families and offered appreciation for her participation in the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Mr. Morley introduced Dan Ralyea, the Director of Research and Data Analysis for the SC Department of Education. Mr. Ralyea presented on the State Longitudinal Data System Grant. Dr. Mathis asked Mr. Ralyea what is needed from the ECAC. Mr. Ralyea is asking that the ECAC provide a data governance document for agencies to share and maintain early childhood data in SC.

Mr. Morley introduced Dr. Matthew Ferguson, Director of the Education Oversight Committee; Dr. Christine DiStefano, Professor of Education Psychology and Research at USC; and Dr. Fred Greer, Research Associate Professor at USC. They presented on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Report.

Mr. Leach presented on the Preschool Development Grant.

Mr. Morley provided an opportunity for Lt. Gov. Evette to speak, where she thanked Ms. Mjartan and all of the presenters for their data and research. She asked everyone to encourage the citizens of SC to complete the census.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hussey provided a second and the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:31 p.m.



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee
Date: August 20, 2020

RE: Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee

The Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) held its regular bi-monthly meeting on July 7, 2020.

Chair Mathis opened the meeting with the introduction of new member Eric Bellamy, Chief Partner Engagement Officer of Children's Trust, who is taking the place of the Trust's Sue Williams on the Interagency Collaboration Committee. Dr. Mathis took this opportunity to remind the committee of its purpose as a networking group of state agency early childhood leadership. The ICC provides a forum for sharing and discussing programs, issues, and activities of common interest and opportunities for collaboration. It does not set policy or take votes.

Georgia Mjartan reported that plans for building out the First Five SC landing page are on target and work on the Palmetto Pre-K portal continues. Palmetto PreK received 443 leads in the month of June and 4,736 leads since the portal's launch. In June, 91% of the leads were determined eligible.

Chelsea Richard informed the committee that the position description for the State Longitudinal Data System Coordinator has been developed and will be posted soon. The position will be housed at SC First Steps but will support all member agencies as an ECAC staff member. Dr. Mathis emphasized that a committee of data experts from the agencies will be convened for the purposes of the grant.

Cassie Barber reported that a \$25,000 grant from the Alliance for Early Success has brought technical assistance to the ECAC from BUILD, CLASP, the National Women's Law Center, the Committee for Economic Development, and Zero to Three. Some of this assistance will be focused on the development of the Early Childhood State Strategic Plan, A smaller, unrelated grant from the Alliance will focus on educating our congressional delegation about the effects of COVID-19 on the availability of childcare in South Carolina. The ECAC is partnering with the United Way Association of SC in this work which will include a survey of parents.

Committee members utilized the remainder of the meeting to share updates and opportunities from their individual agencies with one another and explore collaboration opportunities. ECAC staff will share agency news as appropriate via the ECAC website and newsletter.

Meeting dates and times have been set for the remainder of the calendar year. The committee meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday from 1:30 PM until 3:00 PM. Future meeting dates are September 1, 2020, November 3, 2020 and January 5, 2021.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
July 7, 2020
Via Zoom**

Present: David Mathis, Department of Education, Chair; Georgia Mjartan, First Steps; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Eric Bellamy, The Children's Trust; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Stephanie Hicklin for Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; David Morley, Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council

Staff to Committee: Cassie Barber, ECAC Program Manager; Laura Baker, ECAC Communications Coordinator

Guest: Chelsea Richard, Strategic Impact Manager, SC First Steps

Absent: Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Leesa Aiken, State Library; Joan Duwve, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Stephanie Frazier, SC ETV

Dr. David Mathis called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees including a new member, Eric Bellamy, Chief Partner Engagement Officer, Children's Trust of SC. Members introduced themselves and shared their role in early childhood within their agencies. David used the opportunity of welcoming new member Eric to remind members of the committee's purpose as a networking group of state agency early childhood leadership. ICC provides a forum for sharing and discussing programs, issues, and activities of common interest and opportunities for collaboration. The ICC does not set policy and does not take votes.

Georgia Mjartan shared that plans for building out the First Five SC are in progress along with the Palmetto Pre-K portal. Action is being taking to develop online applications for the PPK portal. Mary Lynne Diggs noted that Head Start is working to accept applications without the in-person signature requirement to reduce contact during the pandemic. PPK received 443 leads in the month of June and 4,736 leads since the portal's launch. In June, 91% of the leads were determined to be eligible.

Chelsea Richard announced that the position description for the State Longitudinal Data System Coordinator has been developed and will be posted soon. She emphasized that while the coordinator will be housed at SC First Steps as an ECAC staff member, their work will be in support of all member agencies working on the SLDS grant. David Mathis noted that a committee of data experts from the agencies will be convened for the purposes of the grant.

Cassie Barber reported that the ECAC is receiving technical assistance from BUILD, CLASP, the National Women's Law Center, the Committee for Economic Development, and Zero to Three as part of the \$25,000 grant received last year to support communications and outreach around the state strategic plan and other activities such as PPK.

The ECAC has received another small grant from AES focused on education our federal delegation and other decision makers on the effects of COVID-19 on the child care. ECAC has partnered with the United Way Association of SC on these efforts. Chelsea Richard discussed a survey of parents she has developed to determine the needs and concerns of parents of young children during the



pandemic and requested the committee's review and feedback. Georgia Mjartan relayed a conversation she had with Governor McMaster's education director, Melanie Barton, who expressed great interest in the survey results which could provide key information to assist in helping parents to return to work and school. This grant has a quick turnaround time and concludes in August.

Cassie Barber also noted that the AES technical assistance will support on-going work to develop the SC Early Childhood State Strategic Plan. The plan will use the Needs Assessment conducted through the Preschool Development Grant and the PDG Strategic Plan as the basis

Cross-sector Collaboration and Updates:

- Amber Gillum from DSS shared that approximately 39% of child care centers remain closed and that number seems to have plateaued. Approximately 40% of those closed centers are located within public schools which remain closed. Guidelines for child care centers that have an exposure to COVID can be found on the AccelerateSC website.
- The Department of Education is working with the members of AccelerateED to make plans along with the 79 school districts in the state to reopen schools for the fall. David Mathis shared that all districts will offer some form of virtual instruction. Assessments for 4K and 5K will be conducted in the first 10 days of the school year and at the end of the calendar year. Academic Recovery Camp must take place in person. The Department of Education has been helping districts to determine their risk category. Schools are requiring face-to-face academic recovery assessments. The state has allowed schools to add five additional days to the academic calendar for pre-k through grade 8 to help with academic recovery.
- SC First Steps 4K classrooms and centers will fully open on August 17. There will be at least 233 centers open.
- BabyNet is conducting all eligibility screenings and evaluations via phone and is relying on these evaluations rather than test scores. The program will likely continue to utilize these virtual methods even after the pandemic because their enrollment of children birth – 1 is at an all-time high.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee regularly meets bi-monthly from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM on the first Tuesday of odd months. Next meeting dates: September 1, 2020; November 3, 2020, January 5, 2021.