



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 16, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting  
SC First Steps  
*Minutes*

### **Members Present (17):**

Dave Morley, Chair	Jennifer McConnell
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	Janie Neeley
Jacque Curtin	Alexia Newman
Mary Lynne Diggs	Roger Pryor
John Hayes	Dr. Edward Simmer
Tim Holt	Sue Williams
Michael Leach	Dr. Amy Williams
Dr. David Mathis	Nicole Wynkoop

### **Members Absent (6):**

Rep. Paula Calhoon  
Dr. Michelle Fry  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Robert Kerr  
Jesica Mackey

### **Attendees (71)**

Georgia Mjartan	Dwana Doctor	Rosemarie West
Avian Jones	Felicia Battle	Ryan Shinn
Laura Baker	Gina Beebe	Sarah Eargle
Beth Moore	Ivory Mitchell	Sharon Bruton
Samantha Ingram	Jabari Clyburn	Shayla Pettigrew
Adrienne Troy Frazier	Jennifer Williams	Sheila Cornwell
Alexis Pipkins	Jon Artz	SheKiah Reese
Amy Engle	Joy Mazur	Sherry Adger
Angelica Jules	Justina Siuba	Spencer Scott
Annie Cherry	Karen Oliver	Stacy Greenwalt
Ben Gibson	Kate Roach	S Woods
Beth Kienzlen	Kathy Fitzgerald	Terri Lottchea
Betty Gardiner	Kathy Jenkins	Tiffany Outlaw
Betty Washington	Kenna Hoover	Valencia Johnson
Carletta Isreal	Kerri Schnake	
Catherine Bender	Kerry Cordan	
Cierra Crosby	Kim Trudell	
Chastine Dickey-Jackson	Kristen Martocchio	
Chelsea Richard	Kristine Jenkins	
Cindy Ellis	LaMyra Sanders	
Cindy Galloway	Lavinia Tejada	
Daby Snipes	Lis Guimaraes	
Darcy Huffman	Mark Barnes	
Dedra Butler	Megan Smith	
Derek Cromwell	NaToya Cartledge	
Dione Brabham	Pauletta Plowden	
Dorian Young	Rachal Hatton-Moore	
Duchette Hylton	Rick Foster	
	Rogers Pryor	



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the amendment to remove Mr. Kerr's presentation from the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. Neeley provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 minutes. Dr. Williams provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on First5SC, its current usage and marketing plan.

Mr. Leach provided an update on the federal stimulus funding and child care activities. South Carolina has received four supplemental federal child care grants related to COVID-19, totaling \$954,645,289:

- \$63,641,788 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, awarded April 13, 2020 (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- \$182,004,760 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act (CRRSA), awarded February 3, 2021 (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- Two grants under the American Rescue Plan awarded April 15, 2021, totaling \$708,998,741.
- \$436,582,621 in Child Care Stabilization Funds (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- \$272,416,120 in Supplemental Discretionary Funds (must be obligated by 9/30/23 and liquidated by 9/30/24).

As of 6/14/22, we have spent or obligated more than \$615 million and our staff continue to work very hard to make sure we are meeting as many of the needs as we can and fulfilling our responsibility as stewards of public funds by being thoughtful and deliberate about implementing the items in the spending plan. At this point we believe we are on track to spend the funds within the timeframes outlined in the federal rules. 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 6/14/22, 1,761 child care providers have applied for Round 1 of the SC Building Blocks Grant (87% of potentially eligible). 1,710 applications have been approved, totaling \$204,280,025 for the 12-month grant period. On June 1, 2022, DSS launched a second round of SC Building Blocks grants. As of 6/14/22, 1,287 child care providers have applied for Round 2. 1,283 applications have been approved, totaling \$166,445,000. 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 6/14/22, 30,362 children have been approved for SC Child Care COVID-300 Vouchers and placed in a slot. Approximately \$357 million has been allocated for these vouchers. In October 2021, DSS also raised voucher rates for providers to help close the gap between the voucher rates and private pay clients. Overall, this means increases in the maximum amount providers are reimbursed.

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and shared that they are continuing to work on goals in the SC Birth through Five Plan.



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

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

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 4:23 p.m.