



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

December 4, 2024, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Council Members Present (17):

Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Constance Holloway
Mike Leach
David Lisk
Jessica Mackey
Jack McBride
Dave Morley, Chairman

Janie Neeley
Dorothy Priestler
Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Ed Simmer
Wes Wooten
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Council Members Absent (6):

Rep. Terry Alexander
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Dr. Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Eunice Medina

Attendees (56)

Ann Vandervliet
Mark Barnes
Avian Jones
Chelsea Richard
Derek Cromwell
Martha Strickland
Karen Oliver
Kaitlyn Richards
Kristine Jenkins
David O'Kelly
Molly Tuck
Betty Gardiner
Jim Riddle
Laura Baker
Samantha Ingram
Alexis Pipkins
Amira Hulwe
Aubrielle Kituuma
Benjamin Hall
Cheryl Scales
Cindy Galloway
Emma Matzko
Felicia Battle
Gina Beebe
Gloria Goodwin
Jade Wright
Jaiden Branch

Janice Kilburn
Jenny May
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kristen Martocchio
Kristi Richardson
LaMyra Sanders-Dukes
Lawanda Jones
Leila Jacobs
Lis Guimaraes
Mary Laney
Melissa Sander
Michelle Bowers
Pauletta Plowden
Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rhonda Kelsey
Sally McClellan
Sarah Crawford
Senekita Farmer
Shayla Pettigrew
Stacy Greenwalt
Teneshia Slempe
Tiffany Outlaw
Tyshica McConner

Valencia Johnson
Vanessa Earle



The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Mr. Lisk provided the motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Williams provided a motion to approve the October 17, 2024 minutes, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Tuck presented an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) policy to be approved.

Dr. Williams made a motion to approve the SC ECIDS Sustainability Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lisk and unanimously approved.

Ms. Tuck provided information on her background and her role as the Harvard Strategic Data Fellow.

Ms. Williams shared a shoutout to the First Steps First Five team.

Mr. Leach shared that DSS presented their budget to the Governor's office that included requests for child welfare, adult protective services, domestic violence, and child care. DSS asked for over \$30 million related to child care: \$26 million for the child care wage bonus, \$1 million for a tri-share child care pilot model, and additional funding for vouchers. He shared that DSS has also asked for funding for in-home visiting programs, with a philanthropy partner that will match that for at least up to 10 years. He asked for support in crafting a narrative between DSS, Children's Trust, and SC First Steps. He also shared that there is a report available on the use of covid federal dollars for childcare.

Ms. Diggs shared that Charleston early head start childcare partnership is a new grantee under Skycap. She also shared that the Migrant Head Start Program moved from Charleston to Columbia because there are more migrant children in the Saluda area than any other part of the State. As a result, Richland County First Steps is an early head start grantee. She also shared that there are now new Head Start performance standards.

Dr. Simmer shared information about DPH's pre and postnatal mobile unit, to serve 14 counties that do not have obstetric care. He stated that DPH is requesting for over \$1 million for the Hear Her campaign. He stated that there has been a significant increase in WIC participants and DPH has received \$12 million from the federal government for WIC and DPH has asked the legislature for permission to use the funds.

Ms. Oliver reported on the activities of the ECAC and ICC and shared analytics on Palmetto PreK and First Five SC. She shared information on the Summit on Early Childhood and thanked ECAC agency partners that are sponsors of the summit.

Mr. Lisk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.