

Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
April 2023 immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting
South Carolina First Steps 636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.
- II. Meeting Minutes

Strategy 2.4.5 Expand transportation services for families so they can access services and experiences (requires motion and second)

- V. 2023 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five (Amber Gillum)
Motion: To approve 2023 priorities relating to 2023 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan (requires motion and second)
Attachment: 2023 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Priorities
- VI. Drive to Five Data Dashboard (Sarah Crawford and Sheila Cornwell)
- VII. Presentations and Updates from ECAC Members
- VIII. Information
 - a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Amber Gillum)
Attachment: Interagency Collaboration Committee Recap
 - b. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mijan)
Attachment: ECAC Report on Activities
- IX. Adjourn (David Morley)
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

February 16, 2020 Immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Draft Minutes

Trustees Present (16):

Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Shannon Erickson
John Hayes
Rep. TTO 10.56 Tf

Sen. Gerald Malloy
Jennifer McConnell
Dave Morley, Chairman
Janie Neeley

Trustees Absent (5)

Sen. Greg Hembree
Constance Holloway
Jessica Mackey
Alexia Newman



Timeline of Key Actions Relating to ECIDS

April 2021

- x The ECAC voted that it would serve as the governing body for ECIDS and that the data governance for ECIDS would be facilitated by an ECAC staff member, the Data Governance Coordinator
- x The ECAC approved the following goal: *36 R X W K & D U R O L Q D ¶ V (D U O \ & K L O G K R R C D O L J Q H G F R R U G L Q D W H G D Q G I D P L O \ F H Q W H U H G*

June 2021: ECAC adopted the purpose, mission, vision, and goals for ECIDS

- { *Purpose:* To develop recommendations to the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council for data governance. *Tr02 7 ET Q 994 (n,)4.6 (at)3.99nacodatrh Ca (r)2.992u(o)3.996h96 (sory*

2023 Progress Report on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan

Priorities for the Year Ahead

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2023, the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) has identified a set of priorities that will significantly impact the lives of young children and their families. These priorities are both ambitious and essential, requiring the active participation and collaboration of the ECAC and its partners to be fully implemented. By improving and enhancing the infrastructure of the early childhood system, these priorities have the potential to create lasting and positive change for South Carolina's children.

1. **Increase participation in publicly funded preschool programs.** According to the Education Oversight Committee (EOC), over 50% of four-year-olds living in poverty did not receive services from CERDEP 4K or Head Start during the 2021-22 school year, and this trend is expected to continue in the current year. This underscores the gap that persists between eligibility and enrollment in high-quality early education programs statewide and presents an opportunity to increase school readiness for children living in poverty.
2. **Increase availability of quality child care, particularly in high need areas.** Substitute teacher pools, expansion and materials/improvement grants for existing child care providers, as well as start-up grants for new providers are among the projects planned for the year ahead. The projects are designed to decrease shortages in the child care workforce and to create more opportunities for families to find the care they need.
3. **Recruit and retain early education professionals.** Children cannot benefit from quality care if teachers and related professionals are not available. Activities to retain and recruit early education professionals include assuring that providers are aware of and use existing supports like training, and consultation. Wages are a real concern. Therefore T.E.A.C.H. opportunities, credentialing and smart money bonuses must be promoted, and new compensation strategies will be developed. To alleviate barriers for obtaining higher education, efforts will be made to expand and update articulation agreements between higher education institutions.
4. **Provide families with the ability to apply for publicly funded programs at times and in ways that meet their needs.** To streamline the application process for families, the ECAC has led development of a new application portal on first5sc.org. This will allow families to apply at once for programs across multiple agencies, state and local entities, and funding sources.
5. **Collect, integrate, and share data to better understand who is served, where service gaps exist, and where to target resources and services.** Integrated early childhood program data help stakeholders make informed decisions and target resources to meet the needs of South Carolina's youngest children and their families. The ECAC champions integrated data sharing initiatives that will make aggregate-level data publicly available, while maintaining privacy and security of individual-level data. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, the Palmetto Drive to 5 dashboard, the Early Learning Extension of the K-12 Longitudinal Data System, and the Education Oversight Committee's Education Data Dashboards.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
March 6, 2023**

Present: Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services, Eric Bellamy, & K L O G U H, Q n i f U X V W
Buster, Department of H

636 Rosewood Drive xColumbia, South Carolina 29201

Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Activities April 20 2023

SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System

State Longitudinal Data System Grant Highlights

- x Grant Site Visit The federal officers for the State Longitudinal Data System Grant came to the SC Department of Education to review the status surrounding the Early Childhood Integrated Data System. The review was favorable. There is a possibility for participation in a FY23 Grant with the federal State Longitudinal Data System.
- x Sustainability Workshop This workshop was provided by the State Support Team for the federal State Longitudinal Data System grant to provide guidance in defining a plan to continue the work of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System beyond the grant funding.
- x Training for Head Start to use SPELL OUT (SUNS) IDs is in progress

Palmetto Drive to Five Data Dashboard

- x Staff from Revenue and Fiscal Affairs will present the Palmetto Drive to Five dashboard to ECAC

Palmetto PreK and First Five SC

Palmetto PreK (portal address www.PalmettoPrek.org)

Feb. 1, 2020^Mar. 31, 2023

- x Unique website visitors: 162,763
- x Total leads: 22,383
- x Eligible for at least one program: 18,209
- x Head Start eligible: 9,188
- x Public school eligible: 8,406
- x First Steps 4K eligible: 5,992
- x SC DSS Child Care Scholarship Program eligible: 3,231
- x See Palmetto PreK Report

Palmetto PreK Enrollment Day (April 4, 2023) Gov. Henry McMaster issued a proclamation for the IF^ FHPST\QJILNSL YMJ NRUFHY TK VZFQNY^ JFWQ^ HMNQIMTTI JIZH children and the state. More than 45 partners across the state participated in a social media blitz by sharing a graphic for the day. XMT\ TK YMJ XYFYJcX XTQULIFWYNS NS XZUUTWY T preschool

First Five SC (portal address www.First5SC.org)

- x

x See First Five SC Report

Family Voice Council (FVC)

Currently, 18 parents and care givers represent the FVC. One member joined in February; one R J R G J W c X n d e d W R March. Ten members have second terms ending in July. The two Coordinator and FVC members are recruiting for new FVC members.

At both the January and February meetings members discussed content for the 2023 Summit: W are Family. FVC also discussed communications strategies to share their stories with families and leaders across the state. In March FVC heard about work of the Early Care and Education Division at SC DSS. The work was presented in the context of reporting progress in the Birth through Five Plan. FVC will hear from the SC Inclusion Collaborative in April, and future meetings will include training in public speaking.

Grants

1. Alliance for Early Success
 - a. Alliance for Early Success invited SC First Steps/ECAC to present about First Five SC at its May webinar.
 - b. The Alliance has been helpful in connecting SC with other states and partners with mutual interests in improving outcomes for young children and their families
2. Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B5)
 - a. South Carolina is completing the third year of its year PDG renewal grant.
 - i. PDG B5 funds substantially support ECAC staff and work, including Palmetto PreK and First Five SC.
 - ii. SC DSS, the lead agency, and its partners submitted requests for noost extensions The work must be concluded by April 2024
 - b. South Carolina was awarded a new PDG B5 Planning Grant in late December 2022.
 - i. The grant is awarded for the 2023 calendar year like the first PDG B5 award, SC DSS serves as the lead agency and SC First Steps provided the match.
 - ii. A workgroup focusing on early care and education reform was organized to identify priorities relating recruitment and retention. Priorities are presented in the Birth through Five Progress Report
 1. The process to develop priorities included:
 - a. Meetings with and feedback from the Family Voice Council and child care providers
 - b. Reviewing information from the Research Evaluation and Measurement Center from the University of South Carolina
 2. The workgroup will continue to meet to develop measurable goals and timelines to chart progress and these operational details will be presented in reports to Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
 3. REM Center plans to post a preliminary synopsis of an Early Childhood Education Program and Workforce Needs Assessment in the near future. REM plans to build on the preliminary assessment through 2023.

-
3. Pritzker (M N Q I W J S c X S u p p o r t S t a t e s) a n d L o c a l L e a d e r s t o B u i l d C o m p r e h e n s i v e E a r l y C h i l d h o o d S y s t e m P o r t a l s
 - a. Staff identified a number of prospective states to discuss how they might develop their own portals
 - i. Preliminary meetings held with Utah and Texas
 - ii. Texas interested in working with and learning from South Carolina

Year 2: By the Numbers

Promoting the Value and Benefits of Early Childhood Education

Several outreach tactics were coordinated in Year 2 to address our audience of parents and early childhood advocates. Below are highlights of the outcomes of those tactics to

increase the public awaru8.7 (h 4(a)-1.4e (b)1.3(a)-1.4s6 (m (i)1968882 58/9eb8.54 Tw 41t.ah6/Attacp06o(a)-1.

Year 3 : Growing the Impact of Palmetto Pre

Parent Knowledge

A child's first teacher is their parent. In order to be successful in our goal, we look to establish vehicles to continue to support parent knowledge about the importance of early care and education.

Family Transitions

In order to be an advocate for the benefits of attending a preschool program, we must also support families to set children up for lifelong educational success. The major deliverable of the Family Transitions project will be to establish South Carolina's Pre -K to Kindergarten Transition Plan surrounding family engagement. This will include mapping available resources, identifying gaps in family resources, and comprehensively beginning to address gaps with tools to help parents and caregivers successfully support their children's transition from Pre -K to Kindergarten.

Professional Development

As we work to promote the value & benefits of early childhood education we acknowledge the importance of building cohesion within the statewide early education system. The Palmetto Pre -K Jamboree serves as one way we support the professional community that supports our South Carolina families. Participating Pre -K/preschool teachers, support staff and administrators are given toolkits, curriculum insights and credit hours during this multi -day conference. The Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree is a collaboration between the SC Department of Education, Head Start, SC First Steps and the SC Department of Social Services.

