



**Board of Trustees Meeting**

February 17, 2022

2:00PM

Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center  
1107 Williams St Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes

**Members Present (17):**

Dave Morley, Chair	Jennifer McConnell
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	Alexia Newman
Rep. Jerry Govan	Janie Neeley
Mary Lynne Diggs	Roger Pryor
Walt Fleming	Robert Kerr
John Hayes	Sue Williams
Tim Holt	Dr. Amy Williams
Michael Leach	Jessica Mackey
Dr. David Mathis	

**Members Absent (6):**

Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Dr. Edward Simmer  
Dr. Michelle Fry  
Nicole Wynkoop

**Attendees (63)**

Georgia Mjartan	Nicole Glenn	Kelly Poole
Garnett Alexander	Tricia Gorton	Dorothy Priester
Jon Artz	Celeste Graham	Chelsea Richard
Laura Baker	Haley Gram	Kaitlyn Richards
Mark Barnes	Marla Hamilton	Jim Riddle
Michelle Beaufort	Rachal Hatton	Cindy Riley
Gina Beebe	Anthony Hewell	Jeanette Samuels
Mary Broales	Samantha Ingram	Justina Siuba
Cushan Brown	Carletta Isreal	Ayesha Smith
Sandra Butler	Kristine Jenkins	Pat Smith
Jessica Buzhardt	Megan Johnson	Martha Strickland
Karlie Canupp	Avian Jones	Mike Taylor
Kim Chariker	Lexi Jones	Debbie Teer
Jabari Clyburn	Reo King	Gigi Towers
Kerry Cordan	Joni Long	Heath Ward
Sheila Cornwell	Leann Malone	LaQuinta Washington
Derek Cromwell	Kathy Miller	Paris Wilkes
Moneta Dawkins	Beth Moore	
Sandy DeWeese	J. Nelson	
Sarah Eargle	Karen Oliver	
Regina Eargle	Shayla Pettigrew	
Kathy Fitzgerald	Alexis Pipkins	
Betty Gardiner	Debbie Poole	



Ms. Jones conducted a roll call.

Ms. Jones reported there were no members of the public that requested to speak.

Mr. Morley discussed Governor McMaster's South Carolina Birth through Five Press Conference that was held earlier that day. He thanked the Governor and First Steps staff for this accomplishment.

Ms. Mjartan discussed the ability to award \$4 million to the local partnerships to expand their parenting programs. She also discussed the SC First Steps 4K childcare centers that will be receiving awards to expand childcare.

Mr. Morley called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the December 3, 2021 minutes. Ms. Neeley provided the motion. Ms. Newman provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley provided a report on the Executive Committee. He announced that items B and C will be removed from the consent agenda and that the SC First Steps Board of Trustees will continue to work with Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps to address their Corrective Action Plans. Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda. Mr. Leach provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: **Motions Recommended by Committees** (David Morley)

- a. **Motion:** To approve the 2022 Board of Trustees & ECAC meeting dates (Executive Committee recommends)
- ~~b. **Motion:** To disallow certain unallowable costs for Abbeville County First Steps and to suspend payments to that local partnership if they do not bring themselves back to a status of in compliance with their Corrective Action Plan within 15 days of notice subject to input from the legislative delegation. (Executive Committee recommends)~~
- ~~c. **Motion:** To disallow certain unallowable costs for Greenwood County First Steps and to suspend payments to that local partnership if they do not bring themselves back to a status of in compliance with their Corrective Action Plan within 15 days of notice subject to input from the legislative delegation. (Executive Committee recommends)~~
- d. **Motion:** To approve the addition of standards for the evidence-based program Strengthening Families Program (SFP) to the FY22 Partnership and Program Accountability Standards (Program and Grant Committee recommends)

Mr. Fleming reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He stated the organization is in excellent financial condition. He discussed the ongoing work by the SC First Steps staff to allow the county partnerships to participate in the state retirement system.

Ms. McConnell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. She congratulated the partnerships that are receiving awards to expand their parenting programs. Ms.



McConnell shared the addition of the Strengthening Families Programs to the list of approved evidence-based programs.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and shared the plan to address the challenges related to outcomes related to outreach. She announced that they have commissioned University of South Carolina's Institute for Families and Society to complete a prevalent program evaluation on childcare technical assistance.

Rep. Govan provided a legislative update.

Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report where she shared that the organization is working through the budget process to include a request for funding to support the local partnerships. She discussed how the resources were gathered from the Department of Social Services and from the State Department of Education to award the local partnerships with ESSER funds to expand their parenting programs. Ms. Mjartan provided details surrounding the local partnerships that were receiving the funds. She provided updates on SC First Steps 4K. She shared information on the Night to Celebrate Community fundraiser and thanked the trustees for their support. She reviewed legislation the organization is monitoring, introduced new staff members, and reviewed the current vacancies.

Check presentations were made to the local partnerships and childcare centers.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm by Mr. Morley