



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
April 21, 2022, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting
SC 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 (David Morley)
Motion: To approve ECAC Minutes of February 17, 2022
Attachment: February 17, 2022 Minutes

- III. Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) (Georgia Mjartan)
Motion: To approve the recommended revisions to the Data Governance Charter for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) developed by the Early Learning Extension Data Governance Work Group (requires motion and second)
Attachment: Revisions to the Data Governance Charter for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- IV. Presentations and Updates from ECAC Members
 - a. Update on Federal Stimulus Funding/Child Care Activities (Mike Leach, SC Department of Social Services Update)

- V. Reports
 - a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (David Mathis)
Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report, and Interagency Collaboration Committee Meeting Recap
 - b. ECAC Report on Activities, (Georgia Mjartan)
Attachment: Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

- VI. Adjourn (David Morley)
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

February 17, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
Cathy Novinger Girl Scouts Leadership Center
1107 Williams St. Columbia, SC 29201
Draft Minutes

Members Present (13):

Dave Morley, Chair	Robert Kerr
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	Sue Williams
John Hayes	Dr. Amy Williams
Tim Holt	
Michael Leach	
Dr. David Mathis	
Jennifer McConnell	
Alexia Newman	
Janie Neeley	
Roger Pryor	

Members Absent (10):

Sen. Gerald Malloy
Rep. Rita Allison
Sen. Greg Hembree
Dr. Edward Simmer
Dr. Michelle Fry
Nicole Wynkoop
Rep. Jerry Govan
Mary Lynn Diggs
Jessica Mackey
Walt Fleming

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	

Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.



Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Leach provided the motion. Dr. Mathis provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and encouraged the Interagency Collaboration Committee agencies to provide their input to implement the South Carolina Birth through Five Plan.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on the Early Childhood Integrated Data System. She provided a Palmetto Pre-K Communications update regarding the portal and what the plans are for the next iteration of the portal and First Five SC. She discussed the future of funding First Five SC and the national recognition that it is receiving.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leach provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:21 p.m.



MOTION

To approve the recommended revisions to the Data Governance Charter for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) developed by the Early Learning Extension Data Governance Work Group.

South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Revisions to the Data Governance Charter

I. Purpose

A. Program Responsibilities

Participating programs will adopt, communicate, and enforce the established data governance policies, procedures, processes, and standards at all levels of their program as data is an inter and intra-agency asset. Participating programs need to assign members to participate in each Data Governance Work Group. **Within each DGWG, a consensus-based decision-making process will be utilized. Each participating program will have one unified voice in the decision-making process.**

V. Data Governance Roles & Responsibilities

C. Data Governance Work Group Members

4. Advisory Members

- Individual(s) serve in an advisory capacity and share suggestions with the participating programs for the purpose of the decision-making process. Their agreement is not needed to reach consensus in the decision-making process.**
- Representatives may include members of the Education Oversight Committee or the Early Childhood Advisory Council (outside of those who are a participating program)**



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee
Date: April, 2022

Interagency Collaboration Committee Report

The ICC met to review the Birth through Five Plan and to begin planning how the ICC will operationalize and implement the plan.

Members agreed that smaller groups will accelerate momentum on selected objectives.

Departments of Social Services and Education; First Steps; and Head Start met April 14 to discuss implementation steps relating to Goal 3, "South Carolina's Children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential," a goal closely associated with early care and education.

Children's Trust and partners will meet to identify priorities for objectives and strategies relating to Goal 2, "South Carolina's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities." A series of meetings are in the works.

Plans will be presented to Interagency Collaboration Committee at their May meeting.

ECAC staff are developing a Birth through Five Plan Report to provide regular updates. The first report will be ready for ECAC at its June meeting.



Interagency Collaboration Committee Meeting Recap January 11, 2022

Present: ICC Chair, David Mathis, Department of Education; Eric Bellamy, Children’s Trust; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration; Office Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC;

Absent: Leesa Aiken, State Library; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Staff: Karen Oliver, SC First Steps/ECAC

Call to Order and Welcome

David Mathis convened the meeting at 1:20 PM.

Implementing the Birth through Five Plan

The ICC met to review the Birth through Five Plan and to begin planning how the ICC will operationalize and implement the plan.

Using color coded notes, each member identified objectives and strategies where their agencies had a lead, partner, or other role. Members also noted groups engaged in work related to objectives and strategies. Members reviewed the objectives with the categorized notes.

Members agreed that smaller groups will accelerate momentum on selected objectives. Smaller groups may include people who are not members of or represented by ICC. For example, the State Chamber, Department of Workforce or Technical College might be valuable partners in setting and achieving internal measures and milestones for specific objectives and strategies.

Next Steps

- 1) All ICC members: review the inventory of workgroups to make sure it is a complete list
 - a. Share additional workgroups with Karen Oliver, ECAC staff.
- 2) Goal 3 leaders: Social Services; Education, First Steps; and Head Start will meet to discuss implementation steps. Plans will be presented to ICC at May meeting.
- 3) Goal 2, led by Children’s Trust, will meet to develop implementation steps. Plans will be presented to ICC at May meeting.

ICC Collaboration Opportunities and Updates

Minor revisions were made to the ECIDS Charter. The Charter will be presented to ECAC in March.

Upcoming ICC Meetings

ICC will meet in person, May 3

ICC will cancel July and September meetings, and meet once in August. The August meeting will be virtual.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM



Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council For April 21, 2022

Integrated Early Childhood Data

Early Learning Extension (ELE)

1. Background- The ELE will be able to answer key questions about children while they were enrolled in early childhood care and education programs. The ELE will connect with the existing state K-12 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) to link early childhood care and education programs to K-12 outcomes.
2. Data Governance Work Group (DGWG)
 - a. Data contributors include First Steps, SC Department of Education (SCDE), SC Department of Social Services (DSS) Voucher, and Head Start
 - b. Technical advisory support from SCDE Office of Research and Data Analysis and SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA).
3. Progress Updates
 - a. Data Governance Coordinator completed feasibility study with First Steps to determine data elements that will be included in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.
 - i. DSS Voucher and Head Start grantees feasibility studies in progress
 - b. Child Trends conducting and analyzing stakeholder interviews with participating programs.
 - i. Information gathered will serve as content for ELE communications toolkit. Content gathered that does not fit within Child Trends scope will be shared with 37 Gears.
 1. 37 Gears will be developing brand collateral for SC ECIDS and data visualization style guide to support communication efforts.
 - c. SCDE developed and shared an initial draft of a data sharing agreement (DSA) with participating programs.
 - i. Programs have until May 2, 2022, to share feedback on the DSA.
 - d. An initial list of core data elements to share has been established. Data Governance Coordinator will work with participating programs, to capture the elements from participating programs, and the DGWG will work to resolve disparate definitions among programs.

Preschool Development Grant (PDG)

1. Background- An activity of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG) is to develop and implement an integrated data system for South Carolina, that will be housed and supported at RFA. The PDG Data Governance Work Group is working to identify information to include on public dashboards about children enrolled in early childhood programs and services.
2. PDG Data Governance Work Group
 - a. Members: First Steps, DSS, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Family Connection, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and

Environmental Control, Help Me Grow, ParentChild+, SDE, Head Start, and South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

- b. RFA provides technical support
- 3. Progress Updates
 - a. Data discovery underway with participating programs to match what they are collecting against the minimum required core elements list. The core elements list includes elements that are necessary for the matching algorithm that RFA uses RFA uses to match people across data sets.
 - b. A sample dashboard was designed by RFA for the PDG Work Group’s reaction. The dashboard features data from DSS SNAP/TANF and First Steps 4K. The dashboard is **not** available for public consumption. It is being used to demonstrate the process for selecting indicators, resolving disparate data definitions, and ultimately designing the data visualizations that will answer the critical questions among workgroup and ELE partners.
 - c. RFA is developing a data sharing agreement to prepare distinct, unduplicated counts as well as aggregate dashboards and reports using participating programs’ data.

Transitions

- 1. [The South Carolina’s Pre-K to K Transitions Plan: Family Engagement](#) was published April 1, 2022. An electronic version of the report is located on the ECAC website, www.earlychildhoodsc.org, Reports and Resources.
- 2. The Carolina Family Engagement Center, SC Dept. of Education, and ECAC Two-Generation Coordinator are invited to attend the Education Commission of the States’ Kindergarten Transition Policy Symposium in Denver May 3-6, 2022, to represent the work of SC.
- 3. The workgroup continues to meet to implement tactics that support transition activities:
 - a. a transitions information added to First Five SC
 - b. 12,000 copies of materials will be distributed to the families of rising kindergartners.
 - c. “Ready, Set, Go!” is a kindergarten transitions guide for families that is being published this month
 - i. The publication is a collaborative product from Family Connection SC, SC Department of Education, and SC First Steps.

Family Voice Council (FVC)

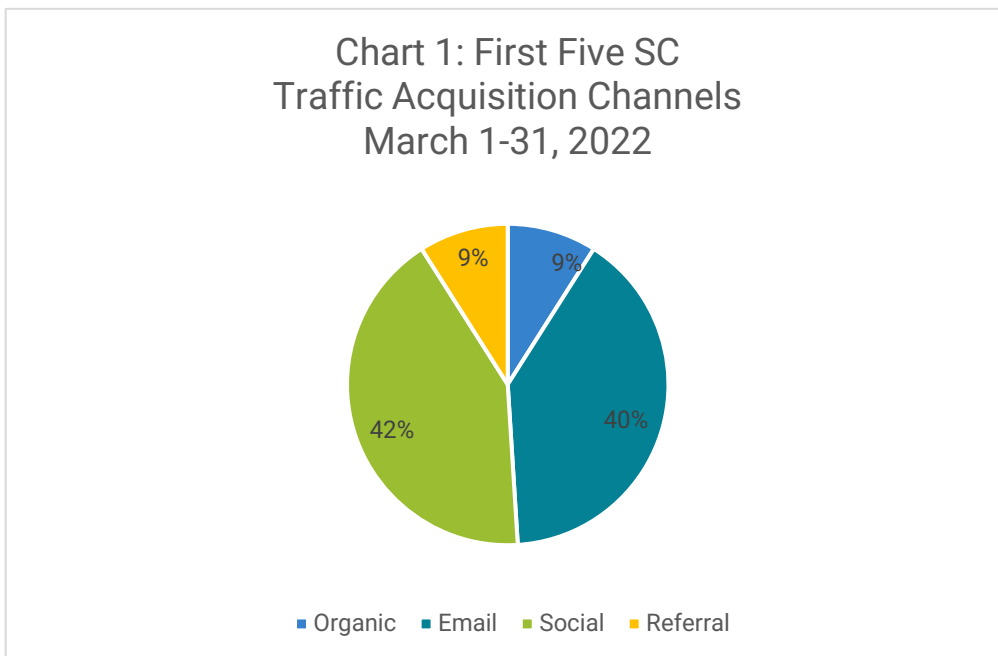
- 1. 376 total interest forms received
 - a. 24 families met eligibility requirement (parent of child aged birth-5, recipient of public service)
 - b. 17 families completed on-boarding
 - c. 2 families are in on-boarding or consideration process
 - d. 1 Family Voice Council seats open; recruitment is on-going for 2022-2023 terms
- 2. Presentation made by WIC; members provided feedback on the use of technology in service delivery.
- 3. Future meetings include leadership training from Clemson ThinkShops, presentations from SCDE Office of Early Learning and Literacy, and Child Trends on the SC ELE.



First Five SC (portal address <https://first5sc.org>)

1. Officially launched February 17, 2022. A login system for programs to collect information for eligible families/leads was launched March 30, 2022.
2. Common application development is underway.
3. First Five SC has received national attention from The Baby Monitor and the Alliance for Early Success. First Five SC will be featured on an upcoming podcast from PDG, as well as an episode of Carolina Classrooms on ETV, featuring Georgia Mjartan.
 - a. Several states and municipalities have requested information about developing and implementing a First Five program: Texas; Missouri; Georgia (DECAL)
4. Portal analytics
 - a. February 17, 2022 - March 31, 2022
 - i. Unique Visitors—12,394
 - ii. Pageviews—35,909
 - b. March 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022
 - i. Unique visitors - 5,718
 - ii. Pageviews - 17,447
 - c. Traffic acquisition- channels through which people found First Five
 - i. See Chart 1

familyconnectionsc.org is top referral site



Palmetto Pre-K (portal address: www.PalmettoPrek.org)

1. Portal analytics since launch (February 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022)
 - a. Unique website visitors: 97,703
 - b. Total leads: 15,425
 - c. Eligible for at least one program: 12,875
 - i. Head Start eligible: 5,997
 - ii. First Steps 4K eligible: 4,297
 - iii. Public school eligible: 6,434
 - iv. SC DSS voucher eligible: 2,037
2. Marketing – First quarter marketing completed. On-going digital and social promotion continues; next push planned for June and July.
 - a. 1st quarter marketing included:
 - i. Radio - Ads to run through March (English and Spanish versions)
 - ii. Digital ads (Facebook/Instagram/Google)
 1. Targeting a SC audience with an interest in early childhood and preschool
 2. Ads are changed out regularly to stay fresh
 - iii. Text messages - Sent regularly through partner list (through SCETV Education and SCDHEC WIC offices)
 - iv. Peer to Peer marketing sharing information from vendor tables at professional conferences
 - v. Distributing informational materials with First Steps local partnerships for sharing
 - vi. Providing graphics and portal link to school districts, First Steps local partnerships and Head Start grantees to add to their websites
 - b. Palmetto Pre-K Enrollment Day (April 4)– agency-specific graphics and text were provided to the four government entities collaborating on the Palmetto Pre-K initiative. The graphics were shared in a statewide collective effort to encourage parents to enroll their children in preschool. First Steps county partnerships and local preschools shared the graphics further to expand the message reach.
 - i. SC First Steps post reached more than 7,000 people

Grants

1. Alliance for Early Success
 - a. Alliance resources support the work of Government Affairs Liaison, Kaitlyn Richards
 - b. Updates to the SC Policy Landscape page on the Alliance website are in progress
2. Preschool Development Grant
 - a. PDG supports the following activities for ECAC: Birth through Five Plan (production completed), First Five SC, Palmetto PreK, and Family Voice Council
 - b. Year 2 ends April 29, 2022
 - i. Year 3 budget submitted to lead agency, DSS



- c. Updated Needs Assessment will include results of a parent/caregiver survey, as well as follow-up interviews with caregivers. The complete report should be complete this summer.
- d. The PDG Data Governance Workgroup is developing a public dashboard to share information about young children.
- e. PDG grantees encouraged to participate in workgroups to develop visual representations of the early childhood system in each PDG state.