



Board of Trustees Meeting
April 21, 2022 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201

Minutes

Members Present (16):

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| Dave Morley, Chair | Mike Leach |
| Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair | Jesica Mackey |
| Rep. Paula Calhoon | David Mathis |
| Mary Lynne Diggs | Jennifer McConnell |
| Rep. Jerry Govan | Roger Pryor |
| John Hayes | Dr. Edward Simmer |
| Sen. Greg Hembree | Sue Williams |
| Tim Holt | Amy Williams |

Members Absent (7):

Jacque Curtin
Michelle Fry
Robert Kerr
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Janie Neeley
Alexia Newman
Nicole Wynkoop

Attendees (19)

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| Georgia Mjartan | Andi Phillips | Jon Artz | Lexi Jones |
| Avian Jones | Alex Mabie | Valerie Johnson | Justina Siuba |
| Jim Riddle | Chelsea Richard | Lis Guimaraes | Kathy Fitzgerald |
| Melody DeLisa | Karen Oliver | Mark Barnes | Derek Cromwell |
| Tom Lacas | Rachal Hatton | Kaitlyn Richards | |

Ms. Mjartan conducted a roll call.

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

Mr. Morley called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Williams provided the motion. Dr. Simmer provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the February 17, 2022 minutes. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley provided a report on the Executive Committee. He thanked Mr. Fleming for his eleven years of service on the board and announced the appointment of Ms. Jacque Curtin to replace Mr. Fleming. Mr. Morley thanked Rep. Allison for her service to the board and announced Rep. Paula Calhoon as Rep. Allison's designee. He announced the following committee appointments and changes: Rep. Calhoon to the Legislative Committee; Ms. Curtin to the Finance Committee; Mr. Holt as the Chairman of the Finance Committee; Mr. Morley to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Dr. Mathis provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

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



- a. **Motion:** Noting that the intent of the Board is to maintain the goals that were originally established in the First Steps 2020-2025 strategic plan, requesting a motion to authorize staff to convert overarching measure of success two from a proportion of First Steps children served by high intensity programs to a proportion of eligible children statewide served by First Steps' high intensity programs. (Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee recommends)
- b. **Motion:** To approve the addition of Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) and Language Environment Analysis (Lena Start) as evidenced-based and high intensity strategies to be included in the South Carolina First Steps list of approved evidence-based programs. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- c. **Motion:** To approve the addition of standards for the evidence-based programs Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC), Healthy Steps, and Language Environment Analysis (Lena Start) to the Grant year 22 Partnership Program and Operational Guidelines. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- d. **Motion:** To approve the update of standards for the evidence-based programs Nurturing Parent, and Positive Parenting Program (Triple P0 Level 4 to the Grant Year 23 Partnership Program and Operational Guidelines). (Program and Grants Committee recommends)

Ms. Mjartan shared the plan to have a representative from the field present at board meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year as a part of the First Steps is Here campaign. She introduced Melody DeLisa, the Lead Parent Educator at Charleston County First Steps. Ms. DeLisa shared her personal experience as a recipient of parent educating services and the positive outcomes she has seen in her community as a parent educator.

Andi Phillips, Founder and Managing Partner and Alex Mabie, Investment Analyst of Maycomb Capital presented on ways and opportunities to increase the organization's funding to expand its reach and programs across the state.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and shared the plan to organize the research around the Birth through Five Plan and to evaluate childcare scholarships for the next prevalent program evaluation due in November 2023. Dr. Williams asked for a motion to evaluate Child Care Scholarships in FY23-24 (Due November 1, 2023) for the next prevalent program evaluation. Mr. Leach provided the motion. Rep. Calhoon provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McConnell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. She shared the committees approval of Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) and Language Environment Analysis (Lena Start) and its standards, and the update of standards for the evidence-based programs Nurturing Parent and Positive Parenting Program.

Mr. Holt reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He reported that 97% of the funds given to the organization are put to use. Mr. Holt asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Form 990 submission. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Sen. Hembree provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved. He shared that the methods used to complete the allocation model for 2022-2023 were impacted by pandemic and posed significant implications to the partnerships. Mr. Holt



made the motion to: defer for Evaluation the allocation model. Do not implement the model as it currently stands for the upcoming year. This would result in each Local Partnership receiving the same amount of funding as they received for 2021-22; establish a new Task Force to analyze the data, discuss and evaluate changes to the Allocation Model; and allow the Task Force to make recommendations to the Board on modifications to the Allocation Model that would insulate it from inaccuracies in the data going forward. Sen. Hembree provided the second and after brief discussion the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Holt shared that the agency is on track financially and at the end of the fiscal year the agency will be under budget.

Sen. Hembree provided a legislative update. Rep. Govan provided an update in H.5111 and PEBA's assurance to continue to serve the partnership employees affected by the bill. Mr. Holt stated that there is an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Inspector General into Greenwood County First Steps and Abbeville County First Steps.

Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report where she shared the process of reauthorization for the agency through a formal facilitated process, the restart of Board-to-Board meetings, and the communications to legislators regarding delegation appointments to their local First Steps Boards. She shared an update on the progress of 4K statewide expansion, the funds raised for the inaugural state-wide fundraiser, A Night to Celebrate Community, and a summary of results from the second annual team survey.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm by Mr. Morley