



Board of Trustees Meeting

June 16, 2022 2:00PM

SC First Steps

Zoom

Minutes

Members Present (18):

Dave Morley, Chair
 Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
 Jacque Curtin
 Mary Lynne Diggs
 John Hayes
 Tim Holt
 Robert Kerr
 Michael Leach
 Sen. Gerald Malloy

Dr. David Mathis
 Jennifer McConnell
 Janie Neeley
 Alexia Newman
 Roger Pryor
 Dr. Edward Simmer
 Sue Williams
 Dr. Amy Williams
 Nicole Wynkoop

Members Absent (5):

Rep. Paula Calhoon
 Dr. Michelle Fry
 Rep. Jerry Govan
 Sen. Greg Hembree
 Jessica Mackey

Attendees (111)

Georgia Mjartan	Cheryl Chavis	Karen Oliver	Pamela Salley
Avian Jones	Cindy Ellis	Kate Roach	Pauletta Plowden
Laura Baker	Cindy Galloway	Kathy Fitzgerald	Rachal Hatton-Moore
Beth Moore	Cindy Riley	Kathy Jenkins	Rhonda Hollingsworth
Samantha Ingram	Daby Snipes	Kenya Johnson	Rogers Pryor
Adrienne Troy Frazier	Darcy Huffman	Kenna Hoover	Rosemarie West
Alexis Pipkins	David Lisk	Kerri Schnake	Ryan Shinn
Amira Hulwe	Dedra Butler	Kerry Cordan	Sarah Eargle
Amity Buckner-Pickens	Derek Cromwell	Kim Trudell	Sharon Bruton
Amy Breault	Dione Brabham	Kimberley Jordan	Shayla Pettigrew
Amy Engle	Dorian Young	Kristen Martocchio	Sheila Cornwell
Amy Holbert	Duchett Hylton	Kristine Jenkins	SheKiah Reese
Angelica Jules	Dwana Doctor	LaMyra Sanders	Sheria Williams
Annette Gerald	Felicia Battle	LaToya Boyd	Sherry Adger
Annie Cherry	Ferlecia Culthbertson	Lavinia Tejada	Shirleen Lewis
Ben Gibson	Gina Beebe	Lexi Jones	Sophia Wurster
Beth Kienzlen	Kim Chariker	Lis Guimaraes	Spencer Scott
Betty Gardiner	Ivory Mitchell	Lisa Huff	Stacie Bourne
Betty Washington	Jabari Clyburn	Loretta Parker	Stacy Greenwalt
Brittany Bush	Janice Kilburn	Lucy Garcia	Suzanne McGougan
Candi Lalonde	Jennifer Williams	Marc Drews	S Woods
Carletta Isreal	Jenny May	Marcia Nadh	Tammy Medlin
Carmen Salley	Jim Riddle	Mark Barnes	Tangela Glenn
Catherine Bender	Jon Artz	Martha Strickland	Terri Lottchea
Cierra Crosby	Joy Dickerson	Megan Smith	Tiffany Outlaw
Chastine Dickey-Jackson	Joy Mazur	Micah Ely	Tricia Gordon
Chelsea Richard	Julia Nelson	NaToya Cartledge	Valencia Johnson
	Justina Siuba	Nicole Glenn	Valerie Johnson



Ms. Jones 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 2:05 p.m. Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Williams provided the motion. Mr. Pryor provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 minutes. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley provided a report on the Executive Committee. He reported that the Executive Committee took action on behalf of the full board relating to the results of the investigations into Greenwood County First Steps and Abbeville County First Steps. He shared the purpose of the regional Local Partnership board-to-board meetings and encouraged participation in those meetings as they will be discussing and asking for input regarding reauthorization. Mr. Morley announced that Ms. Mackey will join the Program and Grants committee.

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

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

- a. **Motion:** To approve the Enhanced Core Function Family Café' evidenced-informed program to be added to the FY23 program listing. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- b. **Motion:** To approve the new evidenced-based and evidenced-informed program guidelines to begin in the FY23 grant year. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- c. **Motion:** To approve the update of the Program and Operational Guidelines and updates as presented to begin in FY23 grant year. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- d. **Motion:** To approve Formula Funding grant awards to the First Steps Local Partnerships, excluding Abbeville County First Steps and Greenwood County First Steps. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)

Mr. Morley provided an update on the status of Greenwood County First Steps' compliance with the three corrective actions they were issued as a result of the Office of Inspector General's findings. The requirements were to replace the Greenwood County First Steps Executive Director, recuperate funds improperly paid to the Social Change Initiative in the amount recommended by the May 2022 OIG report, and agreeing to a timeline on other corrective actions to address significant operational deficiencies. Mr. Morley explained that the corrective actions are resolved or are actively in the process of being resolved and requested a motion to approve the formula funding grant award to Greenwood County First Steps. Ms. McConnell provided the motion and Mr. Holt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Mr. Morley provided an update on the status of Abbeville County First Steps' compliance with the three corrective actions they were issued as a result of the Office of Inspector General's findings. The requirements were to replace the Abbeville County First Steps Executive Director, recuperate funds improperly paid to the Social Change Initiative in the amount recommended by the May 2022 OIG report, and agreeing to a timeline on other corrective actions to address significant operational deficiencies. Abbeville County First Steps was compliant with replacing their Executive Director. They were partially compliant with the recoupment of funds to the Social Change Initiative, and they were not compliant to agreeing on a timeline with the corrective actions to address significant operational deficiencies. Mr. Morley requested the following motion:

The Board of Abbeville County First Steps has failed to fully and sufficiently address the matters raised in the May 19, 2022 notice by June 15, 2022. Therefore, let it be resolved that: South Carolina First Steps will enter into no new contracts or grant awards with Abbeville County First Steps and Abbeville County First Steps may not obligate any state funds until which time the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees makes a determination to reinstate the grant agreement between Abbeville County First Steps and South Carolina First Steps. The Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps hereby directs the staff of South Carolina First Steps to mitigate the impact of this decision on services to children in Abbeville County. This includes but is not limited to authorizing SC First Steps staff to enter into contractual agreements with other local partnerships to provides services in Abbeville County and moving formula funds earmarked for Abbeville County to other local partnerships for the sole purpose of providing services in Abbeville County.

Ms. Neeley provided the motion and Ms. Newman provided a second. After some discussion Dr. Simmer motioned to amend the language to the final sentence by where it would read as follows:

This includes but is not limited to authorizing SC First Steps staff to enter into contractual agreements with other local partnerships to provides services in Abbeville County and moving formula funds earmarked for Abbeville County to other local partnerships for the sole purpose of providing and expanding services in Abbeville County.

Ms. McConnell provided the second. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moore shared information on First Steps is Here: Countdown to Kindergarten and it's new professional development opportunity. She introduced Tammy Medlin, Kindergarten Teacher with Discovery School; Lucy Garcia, Kindergarten Teacher with Erwin Elementary School; and Stephany Perez-Sanchez, former Countdown to Kindergarten student. They shared their experiences with the positive partnership and outcomes of Countdown to Kindergarten.

Dr. Jenny May from the Education Oversight Committee presented on the analyses for the Fall 2021 Statewide Administration of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and their ongoing work with the South Carolina Birth through Five Plan, the Early Childhood Integrated Data System and KITS.



Ms. McConnell reported on the Local Partnerships Programs and Grants Committee. She shared the committee's approval of the addition of new programs.

Mr. Holt reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He provided an update on the financial condition of the agency and the Pay for Success proposal. He also shared information on the possible creation of a separate foundation to support SC First Steps.

Sen. Malloy provided updates on the budget, funding to local partnerships, paid family leave for state employees, and legislative updates.

Ms. Mjartan provided the Executive Director's report where she shared the increase in Local Partnership reach from reauthorization until now. She provided information on the increase in 4K enrollment and the 4K plus siblings partnership with DSS. Ms. Mjartan also shared fundraising results for the fiscal year and updates on grants.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm by Mr. Morley