Our Vision:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
Dorchester County First Steps
Crystal Y. Campbell
Executive Director

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the successes supported by the Partnership Board, and Staff of Dorchester County First Steps. We are in our 17th year of carrying out the mission of “Getting Children Ready for School”, and I am honored to be able to lead this marvelous organization. An additional focus this year has been to be more involved in the community. So, the “Do You Like Us Now?” campaign is in full swing.

In FY17, Dorchester County First Steps has invested in many of the core areas of service. We contribute and support the work of Nurse Family Partnerships and in so doing have helped to strengthen the overall health and well-being of 27 children. We also support and implement two Parenting Programs-Parent-Child Home and Parents As Teachers. In the Parent Child Home Program, housed in both Dorchester 2 and Dorchester 4 Schools, we have provided 2424 hours of support and guidance to 49 families. The Parents As Teacher home visitation program provides quality instruction for 27 families led by Alicia Turner and Kristy Allan. We are also proud to announce that Alicia Turner is a state-wide PAT Trainer. We continue to strive to improve the quality of our child care centers by implementing the Quality Counts, continuous quality improvement rating system and we are happy to announce that 2 centers have increased their ratings and are ready to apply for ABC Quality due to the support of Ivory Mitchell, the QE Coordinator. The Literacy Kits, which are housed in both libraries in the County, have been circulated over 881 times. This means that families are using the kits with their children. All of these events were created with purpose; to help us attain our goal of “Getting Children Ready for School”. Do you like us now?

DORCHESTER County First Steps
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Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: (843)873.3507
Fax: (843)873.3414

Board Chair
Ms. Rhonda Robinson
rrobinson@dd4.k12.sc.us

County Programs
Family Strengthening
Early Education
Quality Child Care
School Transition
Healthy Start
Early Intervention

State Programs
First Steps 4k
What We Do

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

Healthy Start
We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

Family Strengthening
Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps’ intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at “low” levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

Early Intervention
Children’s school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention resources.

Quality Childcare
Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child’s development and success in school.

Early Education
Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar. Early Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.

School Transition
Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Dorchester County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, Early Education, Early Intervention, Healthy Start, School Transition and Quality Child Care.
Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership’s Home Visiting Nurses form a much-needed, trusting relationship with first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

In Dorchester County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Dorchester First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

- $9,000.00… median household income
- 88%… of local moms initiate breastfeeding
- 25%… continue @ 6 months and 22% continue @ 12 months

NFP by the Numbers, 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Home Visits</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Success Story

A client enrolled as a fifteen year old, finishing her freshman year in High School. She learned to advocate for herself and provide age-appropriate stimulation for her son’s development as well as loving care. She graduated from high school, a year early this June. She was on the honor roll and is now attending a four year college for her bachelor’s degree in nursing.

As told to me by Lindsay Odell, RN

This year, our NFP program:

- Supported 3 moms who graduated from high school.
- Cigarette smoking is down to 3.7% @ 36 weeks.

Thank you to our partners!

- Dorchester Fire and Rescue
- Medicaid
- Housing Authority
- Children’s Trust
Program Description

First Steps’ Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development and coordinates public awareness for BabyNet services, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children.

EI&R services include:

1. **Screenings** (developmental, vision, hearing) for children ages birth to 5 years with suspected delays in development.
2. **Referrals**, based up the screening results, to appropriate community resources. This could include the local BabyNet System Point of Entry Office, the local school district, and/or support services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and programs in libraries and other community resources.
3. **Parent information** including strategies to monitor growth and development.

Our EI&R program:

- Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Promotes services and activities that promote child development
- Increases children’s school readiness and school success

Dorchester First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our EI&R families:

- 21% ... live in poverty
- 26% ... didn’t graduate high school
- 7% ... were teen parents

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**EI&R by the Numbers 2016-17**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Served</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials Distributed</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services</strong></td>
<td>Baby Net: 6, School: 2, Other: 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- Screened 40 children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- Referred 32 number of families to community resources after screening indicated need

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Thank you to our partners!

- SC Inclusion Collaborative
- Trident United Way
- Department of Social Services

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“EI&R is a wonderful opportunity to serve all families in Dorchester County, coupled with a home visit to ensure that as many children as possible receive a developmental screening.”

Alicia Turner, PAT Program Director
Parents as Teachers

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Dorchester First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 77% ... live in poverty
- 26% ... didn’t graduate from high school
- 7% ... were teen parents

“**We really enjoy working with our Program Educator. You are awesome at what you do. The children and I are really learning a lot.”**

PAT Parent

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Parenting</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale (pre-to-post)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents as Teachers

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✔ Averaged 13 home visits per family
- ✔ Identified and addressed 14 potential developmental delays, and made 14 connections for families to services such as Baby Net
- ✔ Improved parenting practices for example, parents reading to children more often.
- ✔ Improved literacy skills by distributing 476 books to participating families

Thank you to our partners!

- Baby Net
- Department of Social Services

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In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps’ Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Providers Served</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2016-17!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine House-Four yr old</td>
<td>From 1.08 to 2.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Shepher-Four yr old room</td>
<td>From 3.57 to 4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In God’s Care-Three yr old room</td>
<td>From 1.53 to 2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loving &amp; Learning-Four yr old</td>
<td>From 1.38 to 1.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

✔ Based on evaluations of Child Care Providers we received 100% client satisfaction with coaching and mentoring
✔ Based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments QE Providers working with DCFS have on average improved .73 points. We are changing our strategy but still working with the same providers.
✔ Provided 350 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
✔ Provided $12,000.00 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

- RBP Consulting
- Kelly Phifer
- SC Child Care Licensing
- ABC Quality
- Child Care Resource & Referral

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Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Dorchester First Steps, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>13 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Guidance</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Safety</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>2 hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Hours</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Training program provided:

- 591 early childhood staff with high quality training
- 49 hours of certified training by Master Certified Trainers with the Center for Child Care Career Development
- 30 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Center for Child Care Career Development
- Ripple Consulting, Jessica Flowers

“I enjoyed it [the training] and it was very informative and a great hands-on experience for me being a visual person.”

E. W.- Training Participant

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Too many families in Dorchester County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no – affordable care options.

Dorchester First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 1,786 ... live in poverty
- 1.87% ... victims of child abuse and neglect
- 5.24% ... were teen parents

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Families, with children of age, that apply for scholarships are encouraged to participate in DCFS’s Parents As Teachers Home Visitation program. Recognizing that we have not been as successful with administering the vouchers as projected, Ivory Mitchell has taken on the task of securing and verifying prospective families for scholarships. Since July 2017, we have administered 8 vouchers. So, for FY 18, we are well on our way to meeting our goal. Do you like us now?

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Children Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year was our first time initiating the Scholarship program. Here were our goals:

- To provide 24 children who reside in Dorchester County with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- To identify and address potential developmental delays among scholarship children and provide the families with PAT opportunities
- To make connections for families to services such as Baby Net, Child Find, Beginnings, PCH and PAT
- To support ABC Quality Child Care facilities in Dorchester by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our partners!

- Department of Social Services
- ABC Quality

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The goal of DCFS is to provide quality child care for every child needing the services.

Crystal Campbell, Executive Director
Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description
Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising Kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

✓ 53% of the participating families felt they truly know and trust their child’s teacher
✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 50%
✓ Provided the parents with activities and books to help their child succeed in Kindergarten

Thank you to our partners!

Dorchester District Two
Dorchester District Four
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Head Start and Kindergarten Teachers

Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

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Financial Impact

Dorchester County First Steps 2016-17 Expenditures by Funding Source

Since inception, Dorchester County First Steps has leveraged $1,523,309 from sources outside of state government. That’s 28 cents for every state dollar.

### 2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy (Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2016-17 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$106,887</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$106,887</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-Child Home</td>
<td>$53,826</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$125,267</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership</td>
<td>$10,765</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$71,441</td>
<td>$10,765</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$19,383</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$19,383</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
<td>$88,904</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$464</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$89,368</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$18,616</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$18,786</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Scholarships</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Education</td>
<td>$31,156</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$288</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$31,444</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Identification &amp;Referral</td>
<td>$15,447</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$15,447</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$25,859</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$25,859</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$36,631</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$478</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$37,109</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$477,474</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$71,441</strong></td>
<td><strong>$550,315</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DCFS making a difference in the lives of Dorchester County’s children.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, XYZ First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**Funding Support**
- State of South Carolina: $477,474.00
  *(through South Carolina First Steps)*
- Center for Child Care Career Development: $2000.00
- DCFS Board Members: 90%

**In-Kind Support**
- Dorchester District 2 School District
- Dorchester District 4 School District
- Nefeteri Smalls, Healing Hurts
- Lewis Porcher, Builders Of Our Heritage
- Rojalyn Phillips, RBP Consulting
- Pam Bradley, Kaplan

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How your support helps children in Dorchester County:

- $15 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- $20 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- $3,400 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

Mail gifts to: 810 Travelers Blvd Suite D#1
Summerville, SC 29485

Save the Date!

**DORCHESTER FIRST STEPS**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

6:00-8:30 pm

Support Dorchester First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!
DCFS Do You Like Us Now?

Sharing our resources with the community is one of DCFS’s main goals. We have implemented strategies in order to aid children to be ready for school. The literacy kits are a major part of our success.

881 Literacy Kits were circulated in FY17

Dorchester County First Steps participated in several outreach events:

Zion Pilgrims Resources Day
Lowes Fire Prevention Event
Flowertown Festival
GRITS Festival
DCFS & Cracker Barrel Storywalk

Early Literacy Kits

Dorchester County First Steps identified early literacy as a need within the county. We have partnered with the Dorchester County Library System to create, maintain and distribute Early Literacy Kits (ELKS).

After a brief training, parents are encouraged to check out the ELKs from the library.

The Early Literacy Kits (ELKs) were implemented in 2014. In 2015, 231 kits circulated between both libraries. In 2016, 347 kits have been in homes and utilized by families. This fiscal year FY17, 881 kits have used by children and families. This means that more books are being read to children and more skills are being taught.

Support Dorchester County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
The mission of the Dorchester County First Steps is to improve the early childhood development of Dorchester County children. We provide resources and leadership to assist families in preparing their children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed through community partnerships and collaboration.

Dorchester County Partnership Board prides itself in maintaining proper decorum during meetings. Members of the Board support the staff by attending and working on various outreach activities, encouraging staff and strategy development, and giving financially to support Board events.

**Dorchester County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Robinson</td>
<td>Board Chair</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Gaston</td>
<td>Vice Board Chair</td>
<td>School District Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Bryant</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Parent of a Young Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Harrison</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Faith Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Smith</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>District 2 Library Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Brown</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>District 4 Library Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronda Simmons</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Child Care Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Denny</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Head Start Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elnora Brown</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>School District 4 Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Scroggins</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Grandmother of a Young Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicia Veasey</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>DHEC Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jacquelyn Hill</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Johnson</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Smith</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Early Childhood Professional</td>
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<td>Kristin Common</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Child Care Provider</td>
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The Goals of First Steps

(1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;

(2) increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;

(3) promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;

(4) provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and

(5) mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30

Interested parents with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/4k

[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

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