Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

August 15, 2024, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83722694987?pwd=dDhVLzlMYkRPMHlPYktkb0NwbFgzUT09

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order and Approve Agenda**
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

II. **Meeting Minutes**
Motion: To approve ECAC Minutes of June 20, 2024
Attachment: June 20, 2024, Minutes

III. **Early Childhood Integrated Data System Policies** (Molly Tuck)
Motion: To approve the Data Use Policy
(Action requires motion and second)
Attachment: Data Use Policy

For context and details about early childhood data,
https://www.earlychildhoodsc.org/what-we-do/sc-early-childhood-integrated-data-system/

IV. **Agency Leaders Provide Updates on Matters Relating to the Early Childhood System**

V. **Information**
a. ECAC Report on Activities (Mark Barnes)
Attachment: ECAC June 2024 Report

VI. **Adjourn Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

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The meeting was called to order at 3:26 p.m.

Mr. Pryor provided the motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dr. A. Williams, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Simmer provided a motion to approve the April 18, 2024 minutes, seconded by Dr. A. Williams, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Richard provided context about the early childhood integrated data system policy statements. Dr. A. Williams made a motion to approve the Data Governance Membership Policy, seconded by Ms. Neeley and the motion was unanimously approved.
Dr. Simmer made a motion to approve the Data Governance Meeting Policy, seconded by Dr. Simmer and the motion was unanimously approved.
Ms. Curtin made a motion to approve the Data Governance Formation of Project Teams Policy, seconded by Dr. A. Williams and the motion was unanimously approved.
Ms. Curtin made a motion to approve the Data Governance Program Participation Policy, seconded by Dr. Simmer and the motion was unanimously approved.
Mr. McBride made a motion to approve the Data Governance Data Ownership Policy, seconded by Mr. Pryor and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Gillum provided an update on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. She shared the changes to the plan that are from the changes to the 2024 federal rule in the following areas: 1) lowering family costs for child care; 2) improving payments to child care providers; and 3) making family enrollment easier and faster.

Dr. Ferguson shared the success of First5SC application in school districts in Allendale and Williamsburg counties.

Ms. Gillum reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and their progress on the SC Birth Through Five Plan data sources. She stated that they are in the process of reviewing the status of the 2024 priorities for the plan.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the activities of the ECAC. She provided an update on Palmetto PreK analytics and First Five SC analytics. She provided an update on the work of First Five For All and recent national presentations.

Chairman Morley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Ferguson, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Number: Title	XX: Data Use Policy	
Approved by		Approved Date

POLICY STATEMENT
The South Carolina (SC) Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), as the governing body of the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), is committed to ensuring that SC ECIDS data that are made publicly available are used appropriately and responsibly by decision-makers and other stakeholders. ECIDS data may be used for authorized purposes, including but not limited to research, policy analysis, program evaluation, and quality improvement initiatives related to children residing in or served in South Carolina. Data use must comply with applicable laws, regulations, and data use agreements.

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PURPOSE
The purpose of the policy is to explain the circumstances under which SC ECIDS data can or cannot be used and the appropriate ways that SC ECIDS data can be used aligned with the key questions approved by the ECAC for the SC ECIDS. This policy describes aggregate data that are made publicly available for SC ECIDS initiatives, like through static reports or dynamic dashboards. This policy does not describe using data for research that requires child-level data, like those described in the "Data Access and Acquisition Policy".

SCOPE
This policy applies to all data collected, processed, and stored for any SC ECIDS initiative, including but not limited to personally identifiable information (PII), sensitive educational records, research data, and administrative data.

DEFINITIONS
- **Personally Identifiable Information (PII)** is any data that could potentially identify an individual, including names, addresses, social security numbers, or other identifying information.
- **Sensitive educational records** include data or information that are collected and stored for educational purposes that individual(s) may not want to be shared with others or could contain information that may cause harm to the individual.
- **Research data** are pieces of information that are collected for the purposes of conducting research or answering a research question, which could include data that have been adjusted based on administrative data or primary data collected for the purposes of conducting research.
- **Administrative data** is information about individuals or program operations that are collected and maintained as a part of the functioning of a service or program.
- **Participating programs** are programs that regularly contribute data to any SC ECIDS initiative (see "Program Participation Policy").
- **External/authorized users** are individuals or entities granted access to ECIDS data for legitimate purposes, including researchers, policymakers, program administrators, and other stakeholders.
- **Key questions** are the six key questions for SC ECIDS adopted by the ECAC in August 2021 and outlined in the Data Governance Charter.
- **Indicators** are measures or metrics used to answer a key question. Several indicators could be used to answer one key question.

- **Demographics** are groups of the population that are stagnant, like a child's birth year, or are subject to change, like a child's county of residence.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Participating programs have data stewards, who are responsible for managing and maintaining data quality for their program (see "Data Quality Policy"), serving on the initiative specific data governance work group (DGWG).
- As outlined in the "Data Ownership Policy", participating programs are the final decision-makers for how data they share in the SC ECIDS is used. Individuals within program teams who have final decision-making authority is a program-level decision.
- External/authorized users are responsible for abiding by SC ECIDS data use policies and any rules specific to their data request (see "Data Access and Acquisition Policy").
- The DGWG is responsible for recommending data use policies for the SC ECIDS that align with participating programs' individual data use policies and for communicating and working with external/authorized users on requesting and accessing SC ECIDS data, as detailed in the "Data Access and Acquisition Policy".

PROCESS
1. DGWG decides on a key question to start with and identifies indicator(s) and demographics to answer that key question based on the available data from the participating programs.
2. If additional data elements need to be contributed to obtain an indicator, an addendum to the relevant data sharing agreement is executed (see "Program Participation Policy").
3. Regardless of the ECIDS initiative, participating programs have to sign off on the indicator via a Data Sharing Addendum, which includes two consents obtained at different times: (1) indicates their agreement to use their data to calculate the indicator initially; (2) authorizes their indicator to be shared publicly on the dashboard.

RELATED POLICIES
- Data Access and Acquisition Policy
- Program Participation Policy
- Data Quality Policy
- Data Ownership Policy

REVISION HISTORY

Responsible Party	Reason for Change	Date	Version
Molly Tuck	Revision 1 of policy shared with DGWG	July 19, 2024	1.1
Chelsea Richard	Initial version of policy	July 3, 2024	1.0

2019-2023 Preschool Development Renewal/Extension Grant B-5: Celebrating Successes

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) was awarded by the Administration for Children and Families as an Early Childhood Education Systems Building Grant. SC Department of Social Services was the lead applicant. More than $37,000,000.00 was received over the four-year period.

Five Focus Areas:

1. Needs Assessment
2. Comprehensive Strategic Plan
3. Enhancing Parent Knowledge & Choice
4. Sharing Best Practice
5. Improving Overall System Quality

Successes

Needs Assessment

- Established the Needs Assessment Collaborative to guide process
- Adopted a dynamic, ongoing data collection and analysis process that includes robust stakeholder input

Strategic Plan

- Instituted *For Our Future: South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan*

Enhancing Parent Knowledge & Choice

- Developed First Five SC
- Implemented BabyCoach
- Established the Family Voice Council

Sharing Best Practice

- Expanded professional development opportunities for the early care and education workforce
- Promoted best practice implementation through technical assistance or community of practice initiatives
- Enhanced efforts that transition children & families from Part C special needs services to Part B 619 special education services.

Improving Overall System Quality

- Provided Parents as Teachers visits in Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) to enhance the quality of interactions for participants
- Revised FCCH Quality Standards
- Launched Quality Care by Design to improve quality of infant and toddler care environments
- Offered mini-grants to child care providers to help them move up in their quality ratings
- Provided funding to extend the year to more than 1,550 children enrolled in Head Start to align with the local school calendar
- Developed CRAwl, a program that supports enrollment of children with significant health issues in child care

Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Activities
August 2024

Research, Strategy, and Data Governance
Molly Tuck joined the ECAC in July 2024 as the Strategic Data Fellow through the Strategic Data Project (SDP) and will be serving as the Data Governance Coordinator for SC ECIDS work.

- Based at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University, the SDP Fellowship is an intensive capacity-building program that places new data strategists and trains existing talented data strategists in education agencies to have an immediate impact on policy decisions that affect student outcomes.
- The Strategic Data Fellow position is funded by a two-year award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Family-Centered Practice
Two-generation Approach

- A video that showcases SC ECAC's two-generation approach to family services will be released in conjunction with the SC Summit on Early Childhood.
- ECAC staff members are participating in the SC Education & Workforce Portal Project Steering Committee. Economic and education pathways are essential to whole family prosperity and to positive early childhood outcomes.

Family Voice Council (FVC)

The 2024 Year of Family Voice Report is scheduled for publication in December. Many FVC members responded to the Year of Family Voice Survey, the basis of this report.

Streamlined Access to Services
Palmetto Pre-K ([www.PalmettoPrek.org)](www.PalmettoPrek.org)
Palmetto PreK website:
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
 Unique website visitors: 61,411
    Total Leads: 7,056
- Head Start eligible: 2,638
- Public School eligible: 2,056
- First Steps 4K eligible: 2,087
- SC DSS Working Families Child Care Scholarship eligible: 1,055

July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024
 Unique website visitors: 1,739
- Total Leads: 370
    - Head Start eligible: 178
    - Public School eligible: 148
    - First Steps 4K eligible: 152
    - SC DSS Working Families Child Care Scholarship eligible: 68

<u>First Five SC (www.first5sc.org)</u>

- Seven Children's Trust MIECHV funded local implementation sites are expected to launch on the common application at end of August.
- The team worked with the US Social Security Administration to add Social Security Survivor's Benefits to the First Five SC eligibility screener, and to add an information page for Supplemental Security Income for parents and children with disabilities.
- First Five SC was included as an exemplar of civic technology advancement from the United States in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publication, "Modernizing Access to Social Protection Strategies, Technologies and Data Advances in OECD Countries," May 2024 (https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/modernising-access-to-social-protection_af31746d-en#page4)
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- First Five SC Website:
  July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
  - Unique website visitors: 155,881
  - Families that completed screener: 12,838
  - Families eligible for at least one program: 9,888
  - All program leads: 17,375

  July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024
  - Unique website visitors: 2,953
  - Families that completed screener: 355
  - Families eligible for at least one program: 291
  - All program leads: 476

- First Five SC Applications:
  July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
  Total Applications Received: 2,383
  By program:
  - First Steps Local Partnerships: 1,012
  - SC Child Care Scholarships: 797
  - WIC: 466
  - First Steps 4K: 108

  July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024
  Total Applications Received: 127
  By program:
  - First Steps Local Partnerships: 53
  - SC Child Care Scholarships: 37
  - WIC: 19
  - First Steps 4K: 18

Field Building and Professional Development

- Fall 2024 Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree, two half days of free virtual professional development, was held July 29 – 30. Nearly 500 teachers and supporters of 4-year-olds in SC. gained valuable insights and practical classroom learning opportunities. All attendees were eligible for S.C. Department of Social Services Endeavors credit hours.
- Emma Matzko, VISTA member, joined the ECAC team in July. Matzko currently is supporting a landscape analysis of family voice councils across the country
- Summit on Early Childhood: Where We Begin, scheduled for Thursday, December 5.   All ECAC partners have pledged their support for Summit.