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CONTACT INFORMATION

1402C Highway 72 W
Greenwood, SC 29649
Phone: 864-388-4102
Fax: 864-388-4103
Email: apruitt@acsdsc.org
Website: http://acfirststeps.org/index.htm

Board Chair: Henry Green

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parents As Teachers
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Child Care Trainings and Professional Development
- Parent Training

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

- Fundraising
- Grant Writing
- Early Childhood Trainings
- Parenting Groups

BIO:
She graduated from Abbeville High School in 1995. After high school graduation, she attended Lander University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with a Counseling Emphasis and a Minor in Child and Family Studies in 1999. She worked at Connie Maxwell Children’s Home and Abbeville County Department of Social Services prior to working with First Steps. She became the Executive Director of Abbeville County First Steps in September 2001. She obtained her Master’s Degree in Human Services in January 2011. She is also the Program Director with the Social Change Initiative.
Marcia Nash

BIO:
After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from USC Aiken in 1993 and Masters in Early Childhood Education from USC-Columbia in 2009, she has worked in the early childhood development and education field as the Executive Director of the Aiken County First Steps program, where she has been for 10 years. Marcia has worked with children and families in Aiken County for 25 years; for nine years, she coordinated the Family Literacy/Parenting program at the Pinecrest Site. She worked as a Childcare Specialist for Helping Hands, Inc., a shelter for abused and neglected children; she coached high school girls’ basketball for 5 years at Midland Valley High School and has volunteered as a little league girls’ basketball coach for First Baptist Church of Aiken. Marcia’s Professional Affiliations include: SCECA District VI (President), CCCCD MCT (Master Certified Trainer), Aiken-Barnwell Regional Head Start Early Childhood Advisory Council (member), Aiken Technical College Early Childhood Advisory Council (member), USC-Aiken Basketball Hall of Fame Committee (Secretary/Treasurer), YMCA-Aiken BOD (member).
CONTACT INFORMATION

649 Railroad Avenue E
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Allendale, SC 29810
Phone: 803-702-9010
Fax: 803-702-9020
Email: phall@scfirststeps.org
Website: www.scfirststeps.org/allendale

Board Chair: Evelyn Smith-Smart

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents As Teachers
Child Care Scholarships
Child Care Training
Countdown To Kindergarten

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

BIO:
She graduated from Allendale-Fairfax High School in 1983. After high school graduation, she attended Voorhees College where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. She has worked for Parents Anonymous of SC and SC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program as a Program Coordinator. She has worked with First Steps and served as secretary for Allendale County Inter-Agency Council since May 2002. She’s a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.
Paige Wall

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 41
Anderson, SC 29622
Phone: 864-222-0410
Email: 1stepsac@bellsouth.net

Website: www.1stepsac.org

Board Chair: Jackie Blakley

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Family Literacy
Countdown to Kindergarten
Early Education
Nurse-Family Partnership

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

First Steps 4K
Early Head Start

BIO:
Paige Wall has lived in Anderson, SC since November 1994. She holds a Master's Degree from Clemson University in Human Resources Development. Paige has been with the Anderson County Partnership since January 2000.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of the milestones it has achieved during the past fifteen years and its “value-add” to the Anderson community.
CONTACT INFORMATION
3788 Faust Street
P.O. Box 1129
Bamberg, South Carolina 29003
Phone: 803-245-6513/6663
Fax: 803-245-6523
Email: pplowden29042@yahoo.com
Board Chair: Tracy Golden

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents as Teachers
“MOMMYCISE” Summer Wellness Camp
Professional Child Care Training & Development
ABC Child Care Scholarships
State Early Head Start Program
State 4K Program

AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Early Childhood-Higher Educational Administration
CEO/Executive /Program Management
Professional Grant Development /Public Relations/Marketing/
Communications/Non-Profit Management/Professional
Training/Development

Ambitious, hardworking and committed to excellence in education for children. Has provided exemplary leadership as the Executive Director with Bamberg County First Steps for 18 years. A Sumter High School graduate, her educational background includes the following: University of Arkansas, BA Program, University of S.C. and Catholic University, Washington, D.C. MAT Programs. An avid community leader, serves in many capacities including: AAUW, IAAP, Bamberg Arts Council, United Way FEMA Board, Clemson University Advisory Board, Bamberg Chamber of Commerce, Job Corps Advisory Board, Family Solutions of the Low Country Consortium Board; Lower Savannah Regional Education Advisory Board, Denmark Technical College Advisory Board, DSS Improvement Council and OCAB Advisory Board.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Barnwell, SC 29812
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Website: www.scfirststeps.com/barnwell

Board Chair: John Holston

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Early Steps to School Success
Community Education for Early Childhood Connections – CEECC

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

BIO:

Doris Mitchell

Received her Masters of Business in Management (2009) from Southern Wesleyan University, North Augusta, SC; Has over 25 years of experience and training in working with children grades PreK-12; Owned and operated several Supplemental Educational facilities (Atlanta, Sandersville, and August, Georgia); Worked in management for National-Global Non-profit organizations such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America; Member and associate of several boards and coalition in the Barnwell County area, and the CSRA in Georgia; numerous certifications in Biblical Studies; Wrote and awarded supplemental education grants. Ms. Mitchell has been with Barnwell County First Steps since February 2017.
CONTACT INFORMATION

2201 Boundary St., Suite 111
Beaufort, SC 29902
Phone: 843-379-7837
Fax: 843-379-7840
Email: bjw1steps@hargray.com

Website: www.beaufortfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Ashley Hutchison

BIO:
Betty Washington is a lifelong resident of Beaufort County and a graduate of Beaufort High School. She received an AA, Early Care and Education from Technical College of the Lowcountry. She also holds a BA, in Early Education from Wheelock College and a MBM, Business Management from Argosy University.

Betty has served the field of early education for more than 30 years. She is currently the Executive Director of Beaufort County First Steps and has been in that position since 2009; she worked with the agency in a variety of capacities to include Quality Enhancement Director and Training and Literacy Coordinator since being employed there in 2001. Prior to joining the First Steps team Betty worked for Beaufort County Schools as a Pre-K teacher for 16 years. It was her love and commitment for children which led her to transition to Beaufort County First Steps to be an advocate for young children and families in her community.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Community Education

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Conference Planning
Community Engagement
Adrienne Troy-Frazier

CONTACT INFORMATION

6215 Murray Drive, Room 113
Hanahan, SC 29410
Phone: 843-863-3030
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Email: adriennetroyberkeleyfirststeps@aol.com
Website: www.berkeleyfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Brenda Campbell

BIO:
Adrienne Troy-Frazier has served the field of early childhood for more than 22 years.
Before joining Berkeley County First Steps in 2012, Ms. Troy-Frazier was the program administrator for more than a decade at Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago, managing Early Head Start, Head Start, Inclusive Child Care and other private and subsidized early care programs.
Concurrently, Ms. Troy-Frazier was as a professional mentor and trainer for the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership.
She is an alumna of Spelman College, Chicago State University, and Pacific Oaks College.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Child Care Training
Scholarships
Early Identification and Referral

AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Community Outreach
Early childhood workforce development and mentoring programs
Inclusion and anti-bias training and programming
Head Start-Program Management, Disabilities, Family and Community Partnerships
Virginia Newman

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Ford Community Center  
304 Agnes Street, PO Box 195  
Saint Matthews, SC  29135  
Phone: 803-655-5126  
Fax: 803-655-5695  
Email: vnewman@scfirststeps.org

Website: [http://CCfirststeps.org](http://CCfirststeps.org)

Board Chair: Stanley Rivers

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parents As Teachers
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- Countdown To Kindergarten
- Child Care Center Training & Development

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Storytelling and Story Exploring

BIO:

A graduate of Wilson High School, Florence, SC. Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from South Carolina State University in 1972. Earned a Master of Science Degree in Management from Webster University in 1997.

Sherry Gilliam

CONTACT INFORMATION

4975 LaCross Road, Suite 100
North Charleston, SC 29406
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Fax: 843-745-0895
Email: sgilliam@charlestonfirststeps.org

Website: www.charlestonfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Judge Richardine Singleton-Brown

BIO:
Sherry received her Bachelor’s degree from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, SC and an M. Ed from The Citadel in Charleston, SC. For several years, she facilitated training and technical assistance projects in Region IV for the Office of Head Start. She worked closely with the state Head Start Collaboration Office and assisted in the development of a statewide Memorandum of Understanding for SC Head Start grantees and state and local education agencies. While serving as Department Head in the Community, Family and Child Studies Division at Trident Technical College, Sherry developed and taught early childhood development and school-age child care face-to-face and online courses. As an independent contractor, she developed lesson plans and training modules for child care providers based on guidelines from the Institute for Child Nutrition (formerly the National Food Service Management Institute) at the University of Mississippi. As a volunteer, she has worked in infant, toddler and preschool classrooms; provided professional development to child care staff; served on a local Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC); and developed Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) menus based on USDA child care meal pattern guidelines. Sherry also currently serves as the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Program Director.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parents As Teachers
- Early Head Start – Home-based Services
- Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Training & Professional Development
- Early Identification & Referral
- Raising a Reader

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

- Local Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)
- Institute for Child Nutrition (National Food Service Management Institute)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
CONTACT INFORMATION

126 Willis Plaza
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Gaffney, SC 29342
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Fax: 864.487.9461
Email: cc1ststeps@yahoo.com

Website: www.cherokeecountyfirststeps.org
facebook.com/cherokeecountyfirststeps

Board Chair: Dr. Ronald Cope

BIO:

She also attended Graduate School at USC, completing all coursework toward a Masters of Education in Counseling.

Dorothy received Certification in Nonprofit Management from Columbia College in 2010. She has been with First Steps at both state and local levels since 2002.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Early Literacy Initiative – Talk to Me Cherokee
Community Education and Outreach
Child Care Training and Professional Dev.

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Dorothy has extensive nonprofit experience working with boards and fostering community engagement; tailored training and coaching for board members and employees. She has over 25 years of experience in grant writing, fundraising, and reviewing federal, state, and local grant applications.
CONTACT INFORMATION

109 Ella Street
Chester, SC 29706
Phone: 803-385-6174
Fax: 803-385-6265
Email: firststepsc@truvista.net

Board Chair: Joni Arrowood

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Child Care Training

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Program Development
Strategies for supporting teen parents

BIO:
A proud alumnus of SC State University with over 28 years of work in the non-profit arena. Her professional career began with teaching in Miami, Florida, but the joy of working with young children occurred while teaching at Margaret Murphy Elementary School in Hudson Falls, NY. Upon returning to Columbia, and seeking a career shift, she became employed at the Columbia Urban League as a tutor, assisting students that struggled in reading and math. Eventually, her passion for connecting with students and their parents led to becoming the Project Manager of the Education Assistance Program. Centuria was charged with other project lead responsibilities until a new SCDSS initiative arose for advancing clients to become self-reliant. This “welfare to work” venture was the first of its kind in South Carolina and the seventh in the country.
CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 553
Chesterfield, SC 29709
Phone: 843-623-5904
Email: kmartini@chesterfieldfirststeps.org

Website: www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Amelia Clontz

BIO:
Karen began her work with the Partnership at its inception in 1999 when she was asked to join the inaugural Board of Directors. Martini was named the organization's first executive director in 2001. She also served as a panel member for the Blueprint for South Carolina’s Children. Martini’s leadership and a succession of dedicated volunteer boards have guided the organization from commencement to current acknowledgement as a community portal for early childhood & family assistance programs and services. Martini is a graduate of Columbia College & the University of South Carolina where she earned a Master of Social Work degree and is a licensed independent therapist.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Incredible Years Parenting
Blessings in a Backpack
Blessings Resource Center

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

TAFSED (the collaborative and networking association of First Steps executive directors)
Several major grants from Walmart State Giving Program
Chesterfield County First Steps Business/Early Childhood Summit (sponsored by three Chambers of Commerce and the county Office of Economic Development)
Chesterfield County First Steps named Nonprofit of the Year by the Pageland, SC Chamber of Commerce
Blessings in a BackPack – a weekend nutrition program in partnership with 5 Pageland area churches, the Presbytery of Charlotte, several local businesses and a host of volunteers
Blessings Resource Center – a partnership to strengthen families in concert with the business and faith communities
SC’s Best Community Engagement Award
CONTACT INFORMATION

16 South Brooks Street
Post Office Box 426
Manning, SC 29102
Phone: 803-433-2848
Fax: 803-433-2863
Email: clarendonfs@ftc-i.net

Board Chairperson: Tonia M. Smith, GPC

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents as Teachers
Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training and Professional Development

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

BIO:
BA in Political Science; Master’s degree in Public Administration; over 19 years of experience in government and nonprofit administration, to include 15 years as Executive Director for CCFS; a graduate of Leadership Clarendon County; served in leadership roles in a number of community organizations in Clarendon County (i.e., Clarendon Civitan, Clarendon County Interagency Council, Communities in Schools of Clarendon County, Manning Migrant Head Start, and the Scott’s Branch 76 Foundation.)
CONTACT INFORMATION

609 Colleton Loop
Walterboro, SC  29488
Phone: 843-542-9494
Fax: 843-542-9513
Email: criley@scfirststeps.org

Board Chair:  LaToya Lynah

Cindy S. Riley

BIO:
I live in Walterboro with my husband and my two sons. I received my bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina in Early Childhood Education. I have a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina. I earned a second master’s degree from The Citadel in Elementary Leadership and Supervision. Prior to my current position with First Steps, I worked for 34 years in public education where I served as a general education teacher, a special education teacher, a curriculum coach, an assistant principal and a principal.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Childcare Training
Childcare Scholarships
Darnell Byrd McPherson

CONTACT INFORMATION
437 West Carolina Ave. Building 1
Hartsville, SC 29550
Phone: 843-857-3148
Fax: 843-339-5928
Mobile: 843-861-8866
Email: dmcphers@scfirststeps.org
Website: www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Dr. Alvin Heatley

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
- Parents as Teachers
- Parents Are First
- Parent Training
- Motheread/Fatheread®
- Family Literacy/Learning
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Community Engagement/Education
- Health and Human Services Coordination

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Darlington County First Steps is a proud partner with:
- The Byerly Foundation; CareSouth Carolina; Genesis Health Care; Darlington County CAA Head Start; the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; The Duke Endowment; Children’s Trust Fund of South Carolina; Sonoco Products Credit Union; SC Thrive; SC Center for Fathers and Families; Man2Man; and many others.

Darlington County First Steps is actively involved with the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, Darlington Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis of Hartsville, and is a Partner agency of Hartsville United Way

BIO:
Has served as the Executive Director of Darlington County First Steps since 2008. Mrs. Byrd McPherson earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Wesleyan University in Human Resources Management. In 1989, Mrs. Byrd McPherson was authorized to practice as a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, a license she still maintains. In 2010, Darnell completed the S.C. Education Policy Fellows Program and is a current fellow of BUILD’S Equity Leaders Action Network!
Shirleen Davis Lewis, MS

CONTACT INFORMATION

926 Perry Ave. (Physical)
P.O. Box 295 (Mailing)
Dillon, SC 29536
Phone: 843-774-0061
Fax: 843-774-0480
Email: shirleenlewis@bellsouth.net

Board Chair: Nina Bradley

BIO:
Education: Masters of Science in Psychology,
Bachelors of Science in Psychology,
Associates of Art in Early Childhood
Education. Pursuing: Education Doctorate in
Educational Leadership

Native of Rowland, North Carolina. Currently
reside in Dillon County with husband, JaCoby
Lewis and daughter, Kennedie Lewis.

Employment History:
May 2017 – Executive Director, Dillon
County First Steps. Past employment
includes Program Director, Florence County
First Steps; NC Pre-K Manager, Robeson
County Partnership for Children (Smart
Start); Head Start Director, Four County
Community Services, and Teacher, Scotland
County Schools.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Child Care Training and Professional
Development

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Dillon County Collaborative Council-McLeod Dillon
Dillon County Teen Prevention Task Force
Chamber of Commerce: Palmetto Leadership Team
Dillon County Boys & Girls Club
Nurse Family Partnership
Pee Dee Community Action Partnership
Dillon County District 4
Dillon County Public Library
Dillon County Department of Social Services
Dillon County Health Department
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Summerville, SC 29485
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Email: crystal.campbell@dorchesterfirststeps.com

Board Chair: Rhonda Robinson

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parents As Teachers
- Parent-Child Home
- Early Identification and Referral
- Childcare Training
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Community Engagement
- Scholarships for Child Care

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

- ASQ/ASQ-SE Trainer of staff

BIO: I have been blessed to be able to experience and serve in many educational capacities. Here are a few: School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties-Early Childhood Coordinator; Teacher Specialist in Allendale for SDE; Early Childhood Specialist in Dorchester District Two Schools; Teacher in Charleston County and Dorchester County Schools; Senior Instructor-College of Charleston; Adjunct Professor-Trident Technical College and Midlands Technical College; Education Specialist for Berkeley/Dorchester Head Start; Child Care Resource & Referral-Quality Coach, and owner and operator of CYC Educational Consulting, LLC.

I retired in 2011 from Lexington 5. As the Executive Director of Dorchester County First Steps, my career has come full circle for I was instrumental in bringing First Steps to Dorchester County by writing the first grant for implementation and serving as the first appointed position from District 2.

I love my family (and am the proud grandmother of Tirrell Jr.), my church, (New Jerusalem Triumphant Church) and my work (Dorchester County First Steps).
CONTACT INFORMATION

Physical address:
416 Calhoun Street
Johnston, SC 29832

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 295
Edgefield, SC 29824

Phone: 803-275-0800
Email: edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Board Chair: Liz Posey

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Family Literacy
Nurse Family Partnership
Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Scholarships
Child Care Training
Child Care Quality Enhancement

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Certified Child Care Trainer in all areas
Level 3 Child Care Technical Assistance Provider

BIO:
Graduated from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC

Served on the first Edgefield County Partnership Board in 1999 as Secretary and elected as Chair in 2000

Hired as Executive Director in January 2004

Member of NAEYC, SCECA, Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce and serves as President of the Edgefield County Interagency Council
CONTACT INFORMATION

101 N. Congress Street, Suite 1
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Winnsboro, SC 29180
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Phone: 803-635-8471 (c)
Fax: 803-635-6873
Email: PYWilkes@truvista.net

Board Chair: Rebecca Douglas

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Imagination Library
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Countdown to Kindergarten
Early Head Start
4K
Tuition Assistance

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
I am willing to share my knowledge in eThority and Excel with any who might need a little extra help. I developed a very user friendly spreadsheet for tracking expenses in-house.

BIO:
After staying home with four children, I started with First Steps, as the Program Coordinator, in February 2002. I was drawn to First Steps so I could work in an area where children and families could benefit. I have many classes in Early Education under my belt but, as of yet, no degree. I am also the Parent Supervisor for PAT. I continue to take college courses and other classes as I see they will help the children of Fairfield County. I was moved to the office of Executive Director July 2009.
Spencer R. Scott, MBA

CONTACT INFORMATION

415 South Coit Street
Florence, SC 29501
Phone: 843-629-0202
Fax: 843-629-0054
Email: scott2omega@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.florencefirststeps.org

Board Chair: Rev. Darren McClam

BIO:
A native of Lancaster SC. He graduated Lancaster High and attended Francis Marion University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and Business Administration in 1994. He continued his education at Walden University, where he obtained his MBA specializing in Nonprofit Management. Prior to accepting the Executive Director position at Florence (Sept. 2000) & Marion (Nov. 2003) County First Steps, he worked with numerous organizations & nonprofits: Bruce Hall Substance Abuse Center, Circle Park Prevention Center, Florence County Literacy Council, and Marlboro County Fatherhood Initiative. He also served as a member of Rotary, Kiwanis, NAFCC, NAEYC, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parent As Teachers
Parent Child Home
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Quality Training
Child Care Scholarships

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Nonprofit Management, Program Development, Strategic Planning, Public Relations, Team Building, Leadership Development, Community Outreach, and Event Planning
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com

Website: www.georgetowncountyfirststeps.weebly.com

Board Chair: Whitney Martin

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Partnership with WellCare
Childcare Training
3K Program(2 in GCSD and two at local childcare centers)
Childcare Scholarships
Count down to Kindergarten(summer 2019)

BIO:
Ayesha is a resident of Georgetown county and currently resides in Pawleys Island, S.C. She has a B.S. degree in Marketing and earned her M.S. degree in Psychology. She has over 16 years of experience in Education ranging from SC department of Education (lead transition specialist for GCSD Special Services) to state agencies (SCFS and Children’s Trust of SC). She is a member of NAEYC, a Certified Parent Educator, and ERSEA certified. She has two beautiful daughters; the oldest just graduated from Coastal Carolina and the youngest is a 4th grader currently attending LowCountry Preparatory School. She is also a business owner.
Derek Lewis, CFRE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 864-423-5316 (c)
Email: Derek@greenvillefirststeps.org

Website: www.Greenvillefirststeps.org
www.ProjectPinwheel.com

Board Chair: Grady Patterson

PROGRNM/S/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Nurse Family Partnership

Community Engagement: Project Pinwheel

Community Engagement: #ReadGreenville

Childcare Scholarships

Reach Out and Read

 AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Community Engagement
Fund Raising: CFRE
Social Media/ Awareness

BIO:
Derek has been the Executive Director of Greenville First Steps since 2008. He also serves as a member of the Greenville County School Board and as one of Governor Haley’s appointees to the SC Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee for Children.
Michael K. Gaskin

BIO:
Michael K. Gaskin graduated from Greenwood High School and joined the United States Air Force. After over 21 years of active duty service in the United States Air Force, Michael retired having served (to name a few) two tours of duty at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., with the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for Public Affairs, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and Drug Enforcement. Mr. Gaskin became the Executive Director for Greenwood County First Steps in August 2001. He created the Real Fathers are Dads Fatherhood Initiative in 2007. In order to serve the “whole” family, Mr. Gaskin founded a non-profit organization to provided community-based services in four counties, The Social Change Initiative. In November 2014, he was elected to the Greenwood County School District 50 School Board as a Trustee. His dedication and motivation has inspired him to conduct numerous motivational speaking engagements annually across the State. Mr. Gaskin’s Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration was received from Southern Wesleyan University, Central, SC. He has earned two Master degrees; Master of Science in Management from Southern Wesleyan University, and Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ. He is pursuing his Doctorate in Business Administration at Walden University.

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Website: www.gcfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Lark Coleman

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents as Teachers
Parent Training
Fatherhood Initiative
Childcare Trainings

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Organizational Management
Leadership
Team Building
Time Management
Situational Leadership
Dwana Doctor

BIO:

Dwana was born and raised in Hampton County. She graduated from Wade Hampton High School in 1990. In 2003, Dwana graduated from South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with concentration in Child Development. She is a strong advocate for children and families and believes in education. Dwana lives strongly by the words of her late grandfather, “Learn all you can, while you can.” Dwana has been with Hampton County First Steps since 2009. She has served in the capacity of Technical Assistance, Program Assistant, Parent Educator and now currently the Executive Director. She currently serves on the TEAM Lowcounty Early Childhood Committee, The CAN the Hampton County Library Board, member of SCAEYC, NAEYC, SCECA and volunteer leader of Girl Scouts Troop #30829. Her motto in life is: "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means, keep moving." ~Dr. Martin Luther King

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parents as Teachers
- Early Intervention & Referral
- Childcare Scholarships
- Childcare Trainings
- Countdown to Kindergarten

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

- Event Planning
- Community Engagement

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: hampton1steps@gmail.com

Board Chair: Kakela O’Banner Robinson
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Susan Jones

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Facility Quality Enhancement
Center Staff Training and Development
Parents As Teachers
Nurse-Family Partnership
Child Care Scholarships

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Any area related to non-profit work

BIO:
I am a lifelong resident of Horry County including graduating from Coastal Carolina University with a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education. I started with HCFS as the Program Assistant and became the ED in July 2005. I enjoy all that living on the coast has to offer.
Duchett Polite Hylton

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Facebook: @jaspercountyfirststeps

Board Chair: Deloris Dunham
Email: loiszeke@hargray.com

BIO:
Duchett Polite Hylton has worked with Jasper County First Steps for 11 years; 7 as the PAT Home Visitor, and now as its Executive Director.

Her leadership has seen the expansion of PAT home visitation strategy, doubling its capacity now serving up to 30 families; the incorporation of car seat safety into EIR strategy with all staff certified safety technicians; and the enhancement of family literacy efforts by sponsoring 16 Little Free Libraries throughout Jasper County, increasing access to quality reading material within “book deserts” in rural communities.

1988-1992 - South Carolina State University

Board Affiliations:
Jasper Co. Assessment Board
Antioch Education Center
Jasper County Association of Non-Profit Executive Directors
Jasper County Arts Council

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Family Strengthening – Parents As Teachers
Literacy – DPIL Imagination Library
School Transition – Countdown to Kindergarten
Quality Enhancement – Child Care Trainings
Child Care Expansion – Child Care Scholarships
Healthy Start – Early Identification & Referral

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
TEAM Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference
Lowcountry First Steps Training Collaborations
Kimberley Jordan

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Stephen Wilson

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Early Identification & Referral

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Child Care Quality Program Development
Master Certified Child Care Training
Nonprofit Institute

BIO:
A recognized early childhood leader, Kimberley Jordan, holds a B.A in Education and a Masters Certificate in Management; she offers a unique blend of executive acumen, team-building, and program solutions development. Kimberley Jordan has served as the Executive Director since 2001.

With a reputation for judicious use of resources- and resulting cost containment- Kimberley’s work has been instrumental in providing KCFS with successful school readiness initiatives.
Lora Bryson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.lancastercountyfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Dr. Paul N McKenzie

BIO:

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Busy Bee Literacy Program
Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership
Early Identification & Referral
Community Education
Countdown to Kindergarten
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Incredible Years Parenting/Parent Resource Center
Nutrition Programs (Backpack Feeding)

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Non-profit Management
Fundraising
Board Development
Rosemary Patterson

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Laurens, SC 29360

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Laurens, SC 29360

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Email: rpatterson@laurens55.org

Board Chair: Linda Wessel

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents As Teachers
Child Care Scholarships
Child Care Training
Early Head Start
Nurse Family Partnership

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Reading/Literacy

BIO:
Clemson University - BA, Secondary Education & Elementary Education
Clemson University - M.Ed., Administration & Supervision
1st grade teacher, 12 years
Literacy Coach
Laurens School District 55
Teacher Trainer & Director of Instruction & Curriculum K-12, Saluda County School District
Retired 2010
Executive Director, Laurens County First Steps, October 2011
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Rev. Archie S. Temoney, Sr.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers – Collaboration with Kershaw County
Child Care Scholarships
Child Care Training
Early Steps
Countdown to Kindergarten
Strengthening Families Program

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Save the Children: Early Steps to School Readiness

BIO:

A native and lifelong resident of Florence, SC. Mr. Pipkins is married to his high school sweetheart, LaDonna Brooks-Moore Pipkins, and they are the proud parents of four children: Alexis Jr., Brooke Alexandria, Thomas Lloyd and A’Mari Savannah. Mr. Pipkins is an educator and trainer. He serves on the Florence School District 1 School Board, and is presently employed as the Executive Director of Lee County First Steps; a position he has held since 2012. Lee County First Steps was established in 1999, with a mission to ensure that children arrive at school healthy and ready to learn. LCFS has had a long history of addressing the mission and continuously striving to implement programs to increase the possibility of positive outcomes for families and children in our community. Mr. Pipkins is an ordained minister and serves as an Associate Minister of Greater Gethsemane Apostolic Church in Florence, SC, and serves as an advisor in the Youth Ministry.

Mr. Pipkins is a 1990 honor graduate of Wilson High School in Florence, SC. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with a concentration in Secondary Education from Winthrop University and earned his Master of Arts Degree in Management from Webster University. He has completed the Francis Marion University Non Profit Leadership Institute, and the Francis Marion Rural Leadership Institute. Also, he has an ED.S. in Leadership and Administration from Capella University.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Jennifer Felkel

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents As Teachers
Countdown To Kindergarten
Quality Enhancement
Childcare Provider Training
4K
Early Head Start

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
All program areas, specifically Countdown to Kindergarten
Professional Development with all 5 Lexington school districts, DHEC and public libraries

BIO:
Newberry College, BA
University of South Carolina, Masters Healthcare Administration
Prior Employment: Baptist Medical Center, USC Adjunct Faculty
Executive Director for Lexington County First Steps since inception, 2001
CONTACT INFORMATION

415 South Coit Street
Florence, SC 29501
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Email: scott2omega@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.marionfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Annette Gerald

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Literacy Program
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Quality Training
- Child Care Scholarships

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Nonprofit Management, Program Development, Strategic Planning, Public Relations, Team Building, Leadership Development, Community Outreach, and Event Planning

BIO:
A native of Lancaster SC. He graduated Lancaster High and attended Francis Marion University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and Business Administration in 1994. He continued his education at Walden University, where he obtained his MBA specializing in Nonprofit Management. Prior to accepting the Executive Director position at Florence (Sept. 2000) & Marion (Nov. 2003) County First Steps, he worked with numerous organizations & nonprofits: Bruce Hall Substance Abuse Center, Circle Park Prevention Center, Florence County Literacy Council, and Marlboro County Fatherhood Initiative. He also served as a member of Rotary, Kiwanis, NAFCC, NAEYC, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Shirley Jones

BIO:
My name is Randall Johnson and I have been the Executive Director at Marlboro County First Steps since November 2001. I am a native of Marlboro County where I attended HS. I graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a B.A. in English & Grand Canyon University with a M.ED in Education Administration. I’m a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. where I serve as Guide right Chairman as well as Past-Pole march. I’ve served as President of Pee Dee Region First Steps, President of Kiwanis, Member of NAFCC, and Presbyterian Church Men. My favorite hobby is listening to music and I also serve as a part-time assistant women’s basketball coach at St. Andrews University.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Childcare Scholarships
Center Staff Training & Development

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
I have been in Education for over 20 years and I feel I have a plethora of knowledge when it comes to Early Education & Parenting. I have done a number of workshops on the Importance of Fathers in Early Education. Our partnership has also had great collaborative efforts with our School District and Public Library.
CONTACT INFORMATION
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Board Chair: Pamela Turman

BIO:
Business Management degree from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, OH. Worked 30 years for Ohio Bell Telephone Co. Have worked as Executive Director of McCormick First Steps for 12 years. Interests: Golf, travel, volunteer work, reading.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:
Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Child Care Scholarships

Library Literacy

Other Family Literacy—Reach Out and Read

Early Education for Children Under 4

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Organizational Skills
Budget Spending Plans - Budgeting
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: https://newberryfirststeps.com/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NewberryFirstSteps/

Board Chair: Clyde E. Hill

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Library-Based Program
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training & Professional Development

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Child Care Training
Special Events
Community Awareness

Sarah Eargle

BIO:
Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science in Anthropology at Appalachian State University and her Masters of Arts in Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, along with a certificate of graduate studies in Museum Management. Sarah began work at the Lexington Museum leading children’s programs. She spent 10 years, four as director, at Grace Preschool. In 2016, she joined Newberry County First Steps as Program Assistant. Sarah was hired as Executive Director in 2018. Member of SCECA District IV, Newberry Inter-Agency Group, Newberry County Historical and Museum Society, Board member of Newberry Museum.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Sandra W. Pruitt

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Nurse-Family Partnership

“Principles of Parenting Successfully” (POPS)/Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Countdown to Kindergarten

4K

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Board Support

Public Relations

BIO:
Graduated from Southern Illinois University with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics-minor in Child & Family, received a MS from Southern Illinois University in Human Development-Health Education/Community Nutrition. Registered Dietitian with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Licensed Dietitian in SC. Worked in community settings with the WIC-Women, Infants and Children program, Head Start and EHS, County Public Health District, Community Health Ctrs. and FQHCs, United Way and Executive Director of non-profits. Taught preventive health education to all age groups. Elected and served 16 years as a Village of Council member (non-partisan role) and served 2 years as Vice Mayor.
LaMyra Sanders

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Dr. Reginald D. Williams

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Scholarships
Child Care Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Early Steps to School Success

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Event Planning
Grant Writing

BIO:
LaMyra Sanders joined the First Steps family during summer 2014 as the Executive Director for Orangeburg County First Steps. LaMyra is an experienced educator with an earned Master of Education from the University of South Carolina. She specializes in mobilizing the community in service for the greater good.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.pickenscountyfirststeps.org

Board Chair: Patti Hunnicutt

BIO:
Amity has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Winthrop University and holds certifications in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Special Education: Preschool/Early Childhood. She is also a certified trainer with the South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development. Amity has a passion for the importance of early childhood experiences. She has been an early childhood educator and advocate for over 20 years working in the private and public sector. Amity has spent over a decade in the 4K and 5K classroom. She joined First Steps in 2010 and has served as their Executive Director since 2013. Her commitment to early learning has been recognized on the state and local level. Most recently, Amity was named the 2106 Rhonda Corley Friend of Children by the SC Early Childhood Association as well as the 2016 Community Partner of the Year by the United Way of Pickens County. In her spare time, she enjoys running, decorating, shopping and Starbucks. Amity and her husband, Michael, have two teenage children: Hannah and John Daniel.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Book Flood
- Children’s Services Council
- Child Care Scholarship
- Community Outreach/Education:
  - Palmetto Basics
  - Ready Rosie
  - Razor Readers
- Early Steps Identification (EI/R)
- Parents As Teachers

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Marcia Bacon

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Columbia, SC 29201
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Email: r noble@ rcfirststeps.org

Website: http://www.rcfirststeps.org/

Board Chair: Marsha H. Moseley, Ph.D.

BIO:
Marcia experienced the benefits of Richland County First Steps as the director of a large faith-based child development center in Richland County beginning in 2001. She became a board member in 2005 and joined the staff directing the Quality Enhancement program “Excellence in Care and Early Learning” – ExCEL – in 2006. She became the CEO in 2018.

Before coming to RCFS, she taught 7th grade for four years and served as a Director of Christian Education in three Presbyterian churches in SC and TN for 10 years. Marcia has a M.A. in Christian Education and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood from USC. She has twins who attend college, one at Presbyterian College and one at Clemson, her alma mater. She is a master certified trainer, certified TAP, certified Presbyterian Church Educator, and the wife of a high school football coach.

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents As Teachers
Nurse Family Partnership
Nurse Consultant
Quality Enhancement
Childcare Provider Training
First Steps 4K
Early Head Start
Baby Net

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Deb Padgett

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Saluda, SC 29138
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Email: deborahpadgett@outlook.com

Board Chair: Allyson Bartley

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parent Training – Triple P
- Family Literacy
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Early Head Start
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Training

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

BIO:

Served as Executive Director of Saluda County First Steps since Aug 2001. Hold a M. Ed in Early Education from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Science – Business Management from Southern Wesleyan. Certified as a TAP Generalist III, Master Certified Trainer, Infant and Toddler Guidelines, and PITC Modules 1-4. Received accreditation in Level 4 Group Triple P and the FLIP IT curriculum.
Barbara Manoski

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Sarah Love

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Early Head Start Program
Nurse-Family Partnership
Palmetto Basics
Quality Counts
The Franklin School

BIOGRAPHY

Executive Director,
Spartanburg County First Steps
Adjunct Professor, USC Upstate
The Children’s Museum of the Upstate,
Board of Directors
Married to Tom Manoski
Grandmother of five
M. Ed. in Early Childhood, USC- Columbia
SC TAP & Master Certified Trainer
PITC & Cradling Literacy Certified
SC BUILD Initiative State Team 2015-16

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS:

- Prenatal- 3 Project – ASQ-3 Pilot: Spartanburg Academic Movement/StriveTogether
- Education Oversight Grant, Quality Counts Public School 4K: Spartanburg School Districts 1, 3, & 7
- Administrator, The Franklin School
- Key Partner, Mary Black Foundation
- Convener, Spartanburg Agency Partners
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Walter Newman

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parent As Teachers
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Child Care Training
Scholarships/ABC Vouchers

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

BIO:
B.A. degree in Speech Pathology & Audiology from SCSU
Master of Public Administration – Troy Univ.
30 years of combined experience in Human Services, Government & Education
13 years with Sumter Co. First Steps
Graduate of Leadership SC
Clemson University
Graduate of Riley Diversity of Leadership – Furman Univ.
Graduate of SC Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Program
Mayor, City of Manning, SC
Since July 2011
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Chair: Connie Springs

Website: www.unioncountyfirststeps.org

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents as Teachers
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training

Laura Wade

BIO:
Laura graduated from Summerville High School and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Charleston Southern University. Her previous experience includes case management at the Department of Social Services; and serving as Director of Social Services at Ellen Sagar Nursing Home. She also worked as an Early Childhood Coordinator at Foster Park Elementary prior to becoming the Director of Union County First Steps in August, 2016. She is married to Rick, and has 3 grown daughters.
Felicia C. Patrick

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Board Chair: Ophelia McClary Starks

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

- Parent-Child Home
- Child Care Training
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

Williamsburg County First Steps (WCFS) is a SC Thrive formally the Benefits Bank Site to assist persons in completing their federal and state income taxes as well as other programs available through SC Thrive. WCFS provides child care training and professional development to child care providers in Williamsburg and surrounding counties in all content areas. In addition to hosting the Week of the Young Child Conference at Williamsburg Technical College through the support of community partners. WCFS takes pride as the convener of community partners to support children and their families as they get their children ready for school through the continuous support of local businesses, elected officials, the school district, faith-based community, and various agencies.

BIO:

Felicia C. Patrick is a native of Williamsburg County and a graduate of C. E. Murray High School. She has earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Francis Marion University, a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, and a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Grand Canyon University. She is also certified Elementary Education Teacher. Felicia has over twenty years’ experience as educator serving in various positions and committees. She is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and an active member of her church. Felicia enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and helping others.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rock Hill, SC 29731

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Board Chair: Carol Mann

PROGRAMS/STRATEGIES CURRENTLY SUPPORTED:

Parents as Teachers
Quality Enhancement and Technical Assistance for Childcare Providers
Training and Professional Development for Childcare Providers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Childcare Vouchers for Teenage Parents
Nurse-Family Partnership

AREAS OF COLLABORATION:
Budgeting and Financial Assessments, Marketing and Public Relations, Developing Community Relationships and Collaborations, and Grant Writing

BIO:
Spent over 20 years in the corporate world developing new business opportunities for a high tech manufacturing company. Co-Owned and operated a 30 year old family business of child care centers in SC and NC. Served on the YCFS Board for 18 months before taking over as the Executive Director in 2009. Certified in Non-Profit Management through Winthrop University and have attended several Grant Writing Workshops.