Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
June 20, 2019

Immediately following the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting
By Conference Call
1-888-537-7715, Participant Code: 52045398#

I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (Chip Stanley)
   Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

II. Approve April 26 Minutes (Chip Stanley)
    Attachments: April 26 Minutes

III. Report from Cassie Barber, ECAC Program Manager
    Attachments: Early Childhood Advisory Council Report

IV. Palmetto Pre-K Report
    Attachments: Palmetto Pre-K Joint Outreach and Enrollment Committee Minutes,
                 Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree Program

V. Adjourn
Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
April 26, 2019
Immediately following the meeting of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees
EdVenture Children’s Museum
211 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (12):
Chip Stanley, Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Josh Baker
Shelley Canright
Tim Holt
David Mathis
Jennifer McConnell
Roger Pryor
Sue Williams
Walter Fleming Jr.
Alexia Newman
Angel Johnson-Brebner

Members Absent (9):
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Senator Gerald Malloy
Representative Rita Allison
John Meacham
Representative Jerry Govan
Mary Lynne Diggs
Mary Poole
Amy Williams
Rick Toomey

Others Present:
Georgia Mjartan
Samantha Ingram
Zack Catoe
Martha Strickland
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes
Betty Gardiner

Cassie Barber
Kate Roach
Pierce McNair
Porlan Cunningham
Jonathan Artz
Beth Moore
Mr. Chip Stanley called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and stated that a quorum was present. Mr. Stanley called for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Senator Greg Hembree made the motion to accept the agenda as submitted and Mr. Walter Fleming seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shelley Canright made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2019 meeting. Upon a second by Ms. Angel Johnson-Brebner, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. David Mathis said the ECAC is coming together to move the needle and take action to really get children school ready by looking at the whole child.

Dr. Mathis then read the proposed goals of the ECAC:

1. South Carolina’s children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential.
2. South Carolina’s youngest children are healthy and safe.
3. South Carolina’s youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.

Dr. Mathis reminded the group that it takes everyone on the council to make sure that children are ready for school by focusing on Early Care and Education, Health and Well-Being, and Family and Community.

Dr. Mathis stated that everyone must work together to move the needle for the child to be ready for 5K, then assessment ready, then college and career ready.

Dr. Mathis made the motion to accept the goals as written. Upon a second by Ms. Julie Hussey, the goals were unanimously approved.

Ms. Hussey mentioned the power of these goals, especially as we look at data, to help set standards for our communities.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan briefed the group on two, new public committees formed to focus on Outreach and Communications as well as Pre-K Joint Outreach and Coordinated Enrollment. Ms. Mjartan noted that any recommendations from either committee will come to the ECAC as action items.

Ms. Mjartan said the Pre-K Joint Outreach and Coordinated Enrollment Committee has met and agreed that the purpose is to create a single, shared identity and plan for outreach, recruitment, and enrollment for statewide pre-kindergarten program. The group determined that the identity should be called “Palmetto Pre-K” and membership should include CERDEP 4K programs (SC First Steps and the SC Department of Education), Head Start, DSS and other subsidized 4K programs including those offered by school districts (EIA and Title 1).

Ms. Mjartan said this action item comes from the committee and shows the commitment to finding an organizational home for Palmetto Pre-K.

Ms. Mjartan read the action item: “The Early Childhood Advisory Council commits to providing an organizational home for “Palmetto Pre-K,” the joint outreach and coordinated
enrollment effort for subsidized Pre-K 4 programs in South Carolina including hosting and maintaining a single portal for families to learn about and access these programs. This effort shall include CERDEP 4K programs, Head Start programs serving 4-year-olds, DSS-funded 4K slots (i.e. through childcare vouchers) and other subsidized 4-year-old programs including those offered by school districts utilizing EIA, district and Title I funding.”

Mr. Josh Baker asked if SC First Steps would be the organizational home for Palmetto Pre-K. Ms. Mjartan stated that SC First Steps would be the organizational home, but the identity would be the ECAC and funding for this effort would need to be collective.

Ms. Mjartan stated that one purpose of the ECAC is to develop recommendations for increasing overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations.

Mr. Pryor asked where the information collected through the portal would go. Ms. Mjartan responded that data governance has been an issue, however, at the first meeting a member of Education Oversight Committee and has hired a data consultant to find solutions for data sharing and ensuring that the data shared is both appropriate and legal.

Ms. Julie Hussey made the motion to accept the action item as read by Ms. Mjartan. Upon a second by Dr. Mathis, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan and Ms. Cassie Barber informed the group that an Outreach and Communications Committee would be formed and encouraged members of the ECAC to sign-up to participate on the committee.

Senator Hembree made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Walt Fleming. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.
To: Early Childhood Advisory Council  
From: Cassie Barber, Early Childhood Advisory Council Program Manager  
Date: June 20, 2019

RE: Early Childhood Advisory Council Report

Preschool Development Grant Update: Needs assessment process based on the Harwood Model of Community Engagement has concluded. This process will ensure the statewide strategic plan for early childhood includes the voices of the stakeholders we seek to serve. Preliminary results are in; final report will be presented to ECAC during August meeting.

1) Focus on three domains for all activities:
   - Regional meetings – 4 in March with 116 participants; 5 in April with 104 participants; 6 in May with 220 participants. Defining goals in three domains:
     - Online survey April 1 – May 10 focused on the three domains resulted in 2,680 useable responses. 45.4% parents/caregivers; 42.3% organizational representatives; 12.3% community members
     - Focus groups were conducted in all 46 counties thanks to the First Steps local partnerships. Total of 1,495 participants; 911 parents/caregivers; 418 organizational representatives; 166 other

   - Countdown to Kindergarten – First Steps’ baseline of children served is 1,056. PDG funding has allowed local partnerships to add 553 slots – and increase of 52%. Staff are now planning the creation of instructional and promotional videos to support program sustainability in future years.

   - Websites/portals being built.
     - Palmetto PreK meeting on June 17 celebrated the Palmetto PreK Jamboree; professional development for 4K teachers presented by SC First Steps, DSS, SDE and Head Start. PreK options flyer developed and distributed, our first step in creating tools for the cadre of early childhood systems navigators
     - Comprehensive Early Childhood Portal Kick-off meeting June 19
     - ECAC Website Kick-off meeting is being planned for late June/Early July

   - Georgia Mjartan met with Richard Gonzales, Senior Advisor for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families, at Health and Human Services in Washington DC. The meeting was very positive and we believe South Carolina will be a strong competitor for the next round of implementation funds for the Preschool Development Grant. Notice of funding will be out Fall 2019, and the ECAC will need to vote at the August 15 meeting whether to apply or not

Laura Baker was hired on May 17, 2019 as the ECAC Communications Coordinator. Laura will provide support to the ECAC for its work and also for the activities of the Preschool Development Grant.
Committee members are invited to participate in planning for the SC Summit on Early Childhood scheduled for Friday, December 6 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The theme for the event is the “Economics of Early Childhood” and research is being done now to determine keynote speakers. The full Summit planning committee meetings are scheduled for: June 27; July 25; Aug 29; Sept 26; Oct 24; and Nov 21. All meetings are at 2PM at SC First Steps. Other subcommittee meetings will be held as needed. Contact Cassie Barber at cbarber@scfirststeps.org if you would like to participate or for more details.
Palmetto Pre-K Joint Outreach and Enrollment Committee Meeting

May 7, 2019
3 p.m.
SC First Steps, 1300 Sumter Street, Columbia, SC

Committee Members Present
Dr. Andrew Bruton
Wyatt Cochran
Melissa McDonald
Martha Strickland
Georgia Mjartan
Wendy Burgess
John Johnson
Gina Carter

Other Present
Cassandra Legette
Bunnie Ward
Alexis Short
Jessica Garrett
Kim Spiegener
Joy Mazur
Mark Barnes
Samantha Ingram

The committee was briefed on the Early Childhood Advisory Council motion made on April 26, 2019 which called to action the joint recruitments and enrollment efforts among Pre-K partners (Department of Education, Department of Social Services, Head Start and SC First Steps) across the state. The ECAC unanimously approved, “Palmetto Pre-K” as the name of this collective effort.

Feedback and thoughts from this committee will be shared with the ECAC.
The group discussed the “Palmetto Pre-K Summer Jamboree” and gave jobs to each committee member to ensure the joint professional development opportunity was a success.

Mad Monkey presented Palmetto Pre-K logo options and the group voted and agreed on their top choice. MadMonkey will now create a style guide and brand guide for the logo.

MadMonkey will send an updated logo version to the committee by Friday, May 10.

Mad Monkey will meet with individual committee members to go over eligibility criteria for their program and begin crafting the comprehensive portal website.

Mad Monkey asked members to provide an overview of the different programs offered and the eligibility criteria by Friday, May 17. The goal is to have a one-page Palmetto Pre-K overview by June 11, 2019 to be shared at the Jamboree.

MadMonkey will create a Palmetto Pre-K PowerPoint presentation for committee members to share with clients, teachers, the public, etc. Department of Education will allow teachers to get hours towards training for the one-hour session. Georgia Mjartan suggested creating a five-minute infomercial to alert everyone and a one-hour training that will go into depth and have individual voiceovers.

Next meeting: June 17, 2019 at 3 p.m.
Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree was made possible by the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG B-5) which is led by the SC Department of Social Services (DSS). Grant activities are coordinated and administered in partnership with SC First Steps, the SC Department of Education (SCDE), and the Head Start Collaboration Office.

Palmetto Pre-K is a collaboration that involves all partners across Pre-K programs statewide serving 4-year-olds including DSS, SC Childcare Early Care & Education, SC First Steps 4K, SCDE Office of Early Learning and Literacy, and Head Start. Thank you for joining us as we learn, share, and develop best practices for Pre-K teachers together at the Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree.
Keynote & Breakout Sessions with Palmetto Pre-K team partners

Keynote: MiSTER B

Dr. Anthony Broughton, affectionately known as “MiSTER B”, has demonstrated his passion for teaching children as an author, illustrator, inspirational speaker, recording artist, lay minister and professor. He has authored and illustrated three children’s books and produced three hip-hop CDs, one featuring the YouTube children’s hit song, “Watch the letters get down.”

Breakouts with Palmetto Pre-K team partners: (choose one morning and one afternoon session)

Purposeful Play Leads to School Readiness
Young children need time and space to explore, create, engage and PLAY! It is during this time that they learn best. We will explore what purposeful play looks like and what your role as the teacher should be in the play experience.

Engaging in Meaningful Early Literacy Experiences
Imagine the pride a child would feel when they become an author of their own book! Learners will understand the whole language approach to literacy as a complete system to making meaning of language and texts. See how to support emergent literacy through alphabet awareness, reading and creating books to support young writers!

Early Learning Standards in 4K
Find out how you can use this new tool to support early learning and intentional teaching for all children! Learn how to differentiate instruction and accurately assess young children’s developing knowledge and skills.

Supporting ALL Learners
Walk away with real time strategies to support an inclusive classroom. What does research tell us and how does legislation support students with differing needs?

ACEs Awareness—Adverse Childhood Experiences
How has this study unlocked ACEs and its long-term effects on those who have suffered from trauma in their past? Learn more about preventing ACEs in your community by assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

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