



## Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

December 5, 2019

Immediately following the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting  
Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church  
1500 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29210

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (Julie Hussey)  
**Motion:** To adopt the agenda as submitted.
- II. Approve October 24, 2019 Minutes (Julie Hussey)  
**Attachments:** October 24, 2019 Minutes
- III. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)  
**Attachments:** Interagency Collaboration Committee Minutes
- IV. Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (Georgia Mjartan)  
**Attachments:** ECAC Report
- V. Adjourn



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

October 24, 2019

2 P.M.

Graduate Columbia, 1619 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### **Members Present (16):**

Julie Hussey, Vice Chair  
Senator Greg Hembree  
Representative Jerry Govan  
Shelley Canright  
Walter Fleming Jr.  
Tim Holt  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Angel Johnson-Brebner (by phone)  
Jennifer McConnell  
Roger Pryor (by phone)  
Mike Leach  
Sue Williams  
Mary Poole (by phone)  
David Mathis  
Rick Toomey  
Amy Williams

#### **Members Absent (4):**

Representative Rita Allison  
Senator Gerald Malloy  
Alexia Newman  
Josh Baker

#### **Others Present:**

Georgia Mjartan	Cassie Barber
Samantha Ingram	Beth Moore
Zack Catoe	Kristine Jenkins
Debbie Robertson	Martha Strickland
Chelsea Richard	Laura Wade
Pamela Gillam	Rieta Drinkwine
Lavinia Tejada	Micah Rea
Tammy Compton	Kate Roach
Sarah Eargle	

#### **Call to Order/Quorum Call**

Ms. Julie Hussey called the Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.



Dr. David Mathis introduced a motion to approve the meeting agenda as written. Mr. Walter Fleming provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Senator Hembree made a motion to approve the August 15, 2019 minutes as written. Dr. Amy Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Mathis gave the Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) report. Dr. Mathis stated that there was good attendance at the ICC meeting and the group discussed, at length, the statewide longitudinal data system. Dr. Mathis noted that the Department of Education would apply for a federal grant to support a statewide longitudinal data system.

Ms. Mjartan stated that the ICC will meet on a regular basis and serve as mechanism for state agencies to gather and collaboratively apply for federal grants like the Preschool Development Grant.

Ms. Mjartan briefed the group on Palmetto Pre-K and the partnership among SC First Steps, Department of Education, Head Start and the Department of Social Services to provide a portal for families to find subsidized programs for three and four-year old children. Ms. Mjartan said the site would go live with eligibility screens by the end of the year and in time for the recruitment cycle in January.

Ms. Mjartan then explained another initiative of the ECAC, First Five. Ms. Mjartan stated that the First Five web portal would provide a single point of entry where families and service providers to locate and learn about services offered for children ages birth through five by agencies of the Early Childhood Advisory Council. Ms. Mjartan noted that agencies other than ECAC agencies, such as Department of Mental Health, Commission on Higher Education, SCETV and the State Library will also provide information regarding their services within the web portal.

Ms. Mjartan announced the Fall Pre-K Jamboree where attendees will receive free professional development in Conscious Discipline's "Managing Emotional Mayhem".

Ms. Mjartan pointed the group to the flow of funds chart in their packet which showed the funding streams in South Carolina that support early childhood efforts.

Ms. Mary Lynne Diggs stated that early childhood must be thought of as a holistic approach to continue to make gains.

The group discussed the need for further collaboration among the ECAC.

With no further business, Mr. Tim Hold made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Jennifer McConnell. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council  
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee  
Date: December 5, 2019

**RE: Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee**

The Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) held its regular bi-monthly meeting on November 5, 2019. Georgia Mjartan convened the committee in the absence of the chair.

Ms. Mjartan reviewed her testimony to the Early Childhood Study Committee on October 30. ICC members were reminded that there will be opportunity for testimony from other agency leadership before the Study Committee concludes its work. The original deadline was December 1, but it likely to be extended to allow for further study.

The renewal application for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) has been submitted. If South Carolina wins this award, there will be up to \$12.5 million for each of the next three years to implement the activities begun during the current planning year of the grant. Work during this first grant year included a statewide needs assessment and strategic plan. The ICC will use the strategic plan drafted through the PDG to develop the SC Early Childhood Strategic Plan which will be presented to the full ECAC for passage when completed. ICC members are requested to review the draft and send suggested additions and changes to Cassie Barber, who will compile them for the committee's use.

Ms. Mjartan shared that First Steps was awarded a small grant from the Alliance for Early Success to develop a toolkit to assist system navigators and other members of the early childhood grassroots to utilize and verbalize the components of the strategic plan. Ms. Barber and other staff will attend the Alliance's Partner Summit to learn more about the organization and network with state and national partners which may lead to future grants.

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant application, which was a focus of the ICC September meeting, was submitted by the SC Department of Education in November, with the help and support of ICC members.

The SC Summit on Early Childhood will be held on Friday, December 6. ICC members have been generous in their sponsorship of the event, which is coming together well. Members were asked to circulate Summit information to their networks to ensure that the desired attendance goal of 500-600 people is met.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee  
Minutes  
November 5, 2019**

Present: Amber Gillum, DSS; Quincie Moore, SC Department of Education for David Mathis; Georgia Mjartan, First Steps; Jennifer Buster, DHHS; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Sue Williams, The Children's Trust; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health

On the Phone: Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Nick Davidson, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Absent: Stephanie Frazier, SC ETV; Leesa Aiken, SC State Library

Staff to Committee: Cassie Barber; Laura Baker

Georgia Mjartan convened the meeting in the absence of committee chair David Mathis. She recounted her testimony before the Early Childhood Study Committee on October 30 and asked if other agencies are planning to testify at the next committee meeting. Sue Williams, who is serving on the EC Study Committee, noted that committee chair Senator Scott Talley is requesting an extension of the December 1 deadline for the committee to present its findings. There was discussion of the potential effects of combining all early childhood services into a single cabinet agency located with the Governor's office or continuing the work of the ECAC as it is currently structured. Ms. Mjartan said that she was able to testify that South Carolina is now listed by the Forum for Youth Investment in Washington, DC as having a Children's Cabinet in place via the ECAC. Eleven states have Cabinets with an early childhood focus. Some agency representatives noted that they will make a decision regarding testimony when the next EC Committee meeting date is set.

Cassie Barber announced that the Preschool Development Grant Renewal Application has been submitted and thanked DSS for its leadership on this important grant opportunity. Copies of the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan drafts as submitted to the Administration of Children and Families were distributed. Ms. Barber explained the grant opportunity was on a very fast timeframe and the ICC members are the first to see these important documents. She noted that the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan are "living, breathing documents" which the committee can now review and revise as needed, preparing them for approval by the full ECAC. Ms. Mjartan asked committee members to review the Strategic Plan with the goal of creating an Early Childhood System Plan where all agencies take ownership and work together on collective strategies to meet the goals in the Plan. Ms. Barber will reach out to members to pull together agencies' feedback to include suggested additions and changes prior to the January meeting.

Ms. Mjartan shared that First Steps has been awarded a small grant from the Alliance for Early Success to package the Early Childhood System Plan into a toolkit for distribution to the grassroots early childhood community. The toolkit will help early childhood services consumers and advocates understand and articulate the goals, objectives and strategies in the Plan to decision makers and influencers. She spoke of the valuable national level technical assistance that will be provided to South Carolina through this grant relationship with such organizations as the National Governor's Association, National Council of State Legislatures, the Bipartisan Policy Council and more.



Ms. Barber thanked ICC members for their support of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System grant which was an important topic during the September meeting. The SC Department of Education submitted the SLDS application in September and expects to hear if they will receive the grant later this month. She also thanked them for participating in the creation of a flow-chart detailing state and federal funds supporting early childhood services in South Carolina. Following in-depth discussion of the chart, some agencies are requesting additional modifications, which can be sent to Ms. Barber.

The SC Summit on Early Childhood will be held on Friday, December 6, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Thanks in large part to ICC member agencies, our sponsorship goal is on target. Ms. Barber noted that Summit preparations are coming together well, but she still needs responses from sponsors regarding exhibit tables and other benefits of their sponsorship. She has requested that agencies share the Summit information with their networks to assist in achieving our stated goal of 500-600 registrants.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee will meet bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Next meeting dates: January 7, 2020; March 3, 2020; May 5, 2020.



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council  
From: Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director  
Date: December 5, 2019

## **RE: Early Childhood Advisory Council Report**

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### Palmetto Pre-K Launches on December 6, 2019

- [www.PalmettoPreK.org](http://www.PalmettoPreK.org)

### Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree, November 8

- Evidence-Based Social Emotional Learning Curriculum  
Conscious Discipline: Managing Emotional Mayhem
- 464 attendees in 3 locations

### Interagency Collaboration Committee Work

- Statewide Needs Assessment Completed (PDG)
- Statewide Strategic Plan Drafted through PDG
- Early Childhood Education Study Committee Update

### Preschool Development Grant

- SC applied for PDG Renewal (DSS – Applicant, SC First Steps – Match Provider)
- Grant Period: 2020 – 2023

### Alliance for Early Success Grant Update

- SC First Steps staff attended the Alliance for Early Success Partner Summit
- Connections made with national partners including the National League of State Legislators, National Governors Association, Alabama School Readiness Alliance and Ready Nation

### SC Summit on Early Childhood

- December 6, 2019
- Keynotes confirmed:
  - Rob Grunewald, senior economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
  - Liz Huntley, member, Alabama School Readiness Alliance, author of *More than a Bird*
- Confirmed sponsorships as of this date: \$56,500 (list attached)
- 35 exhibitors
- 12 breakout sessions – two choices (list attached)