



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting
February 20, 2020
2:00 P.M.
Graduate Columbia, 1619 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (12):

Dave Morley, Chair
Representative Rita Allison (by phone)
Representative Jerry Govan
Sue Williams
Alexia Newman
Tim Holt
Roger Pryor, Jr. (by phone)
Jennifer McConnell (by phone)
Dr. Shelley Canright
Julie Hussey
Angel Johnson-Brebner (by phone)
Dr. Amy Williams

Members Absent (9):

Senator Greg Hembree
Senator Gerald Malloy
Dr. David Mathis
Mary Lynne Diggs
Michael Leach
Dr. Rick Toomey
Joshua Baker
Mary Poole
Walter Fleming

Others Present:

Georgia Mjartan	Pete Liggett
Samantha Ingram	Dorothy Priester
Zack Catoe	Danielle Harper
Debbie Robertson	
Chelsea Richard	
Betty Gardiner	
Beth Moore	
Jonathan Artz	
Mark Barnes	
Gina Beebe	



Call to Order / Quorum Call at 2:12 P.M. - Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

Mr. Dave Morley welcomed the Board members. Mr. Morley stated that he is excited and honored to be at his first ECAC meeting.

Mr. Morley stated that in talking with the Governor about this, he really wants to make a difference in education, and then he backed it up with his budget with the significant increase in 4K and his investment in 0-3. The Governor has also asked for a 0-3 strategy for the State and that belongs in the ECAC as this needs to be a collective effort from the different groups.

Mr. Morley applauded the Interagency Collaboration Committee for the efforts that they have taken as they have started a significant needs assessment and have collected a lot of data. They have also created a framework to try to advance this work and bring different thoughts together. Mr. Morley asked the Committee as well as those they work with to think about three things:

- Are the aspirations coming out of this clear and motivating?
- Is there a meaningful call to action?
- Is there accountability?

Mr. Morley stated that Georgia has done her best to explain the work that has been done by the Interagency Collaboration Committee and it is very impressive. A high standard has been set and Mr. Morley hopes that he can do his part.

Ms. Mjartan asked those who joined the meeting via conference call to please mute their telephones once they have announced themselves to prevent background noise.

Representative Rita Allison announced herself and Mr. Roger Pryor announced himself.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan stated that there was just a quorum for the meeting with Representative Allison and Mr. Pryor joining the call and asked if any members of the Board needed to leave or exit the call, to please provide the Board with a 5-minute warning as there are several items that require a vote.

Mr. Morley recognized Ms. Dorothy Priester, Executive Director from Cherokee County First Steps.

Ms. Sue Williams made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Ms. Julie Hussey provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sue Williams made a motion to approve the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Julie Hussey provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sue Williams suggested putting the meeting minutes in the Consent Agenda next time. Ms. Mjartan stated that was a great idea.

Ms. Mjartan added that she wants to make sure the Board members who conferenced in are voting as well.



Mr. Morley read aloud the Consent Agenda item being voted on which states:

- a. To affirm that the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council will take ownership and responsibility for the development and maintenance of First Five SC, South Carolina's portal into publicly-funded early childhood programs and services, ensuring data integrity and privacy.

Mr. Dave Morley asked all who were in favor and all who were opposed. All were in favor, no one was opposed.

Ms. Sue Williams presented the Interagency Collaboration Committee Report. The Committee discussed next steps. They looked at Plans from different States and liked Oregon's Plan the best. Ms. Mjartan shared with the Committee what the different organizations are doing and talked about how they may work on a more collaborative effort with those organizations to see where there may be gaps and where we can each fill in those gaps. They looked at the Strategic Plan that was developed and also talked about the legislative updates as well and it appears that the Early Childhood Study Committee is on pause. Ms. Mjartan provided a legislative update on this. Ms. Williams provided an update on the Summit for Early Childhood. Ms. Julie Hussey asked a few questions. Ms. Williams explained it was more of a Work Plan.

Ms. Mjartan explained the plan is for the Early Childhood Advisory Council to first work through the Committee of the Interagency Collaboration Committee and that this is the appropriate Committee to develop the formal Strategic Plan for the State system. The Early Childhood Advisory Council is required by law to do an on-going needs assessment and to pull that together into what will in effect, become our State-wide Strategic Plan. Ms. Mjartan advised that funding was asked for from the General Assembly for Early Childhood Advisory Council; however, the House did not put it in their budget, but it will be asked for again in the Senate.

Ms. Mjartan recognized Ms. Cassie Barber and Ms. Laura Baker of the Early Childhood Advisory Council who have done a wonderful job with communications and outreach around the Early Childhood Advisory Council. Cassie and Laura are not here today as they are at the ICS Conference on Early Childhood promoting Palmetto PreK and sharing about the work of the ECAC.

Ms. Mjartan discussed how the Early Childhood Advisory Council would remain the home for First Five SC.

Ms. Mjartan gave the report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Ms. Mjartan pointed the Board to the Palmetto Pre-K portal poster in their packets on the success of Palmetto Pre-K and its official 2-weeks of activity.

Ms. Mjartan recognized Representative Rita Allison and Representative Jerry Govan on their actions on the Statehouse floor.



Ms. Mjartan gave an overview of options that were given to parents on the Palmetto Pre-K portal for Head Start, DSS child care vouchers, First Steps 4K, and SDE (public 4K).

Ms. Mjartan gave stats on the heat map and noted that many of the visitors to the portal live in districts that are not CERDEP eligible:

Visitors in 1 ½ months	8,455
Leads produced	2,054
Eligible for at least 1 program	1,078
Eligible for Head Start	776
Eligible for First Steps 4k	594
Eligible for Public School CEREP	259
Eligible for DSS Child Care Vouchers	264

We have received interest nationally on how SC created the Palmetto Pre-K portal, most notably the collaboration and system building story. We are being asked to tell the story around the nation.

Ms. Mjartan gave an update on First Five SC and thanked the group on their vote. She reminded the group that this is to affirm the role of ECAC and assuring that the First Five SC project happens. In order for it to be successful will require the support of all of the agencies. First Five SC is a blown-up version of Palmetto Pre-K and will encompass all services for 0-5, including MIECHVI, Medicaid, WIC, etc.

Ms. Mjartan reported that she has the 2019 / 2020 First Five SC Committee Year One Report & Recommendations and it includes Specifications Document with Technical Specifications and a Wire Frame of what the First Five SC website would look like. If anyone would like to see if they should just let her know. Because of the vote, Early Childhood Advisory Council will now go out to ask involved agencies about co-funding models to continue the promotion. We already have some traction with Palmetto Pre-K with joint funding from different agencies to continue the promotion.

Ms. Jennifer McConnell thanked everyone for choosing Brookland Academy to host the Palmetto Pre-K press event. Ms. Mjartan recognized Ms. McConnell for her leadership and continuous support.

Ms. Hussey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 P.M. Dr. Amy Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.