



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

June 18, 2020, 2:00PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98151204375?pwd=cFhQZTd1Snk4YW5GV0NPUVBQZndJQOT09>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.
- II. Approve April 23, 2020 Minutes (David Morley)
Attachments: April 23, 2020 Minutes
- III. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)
Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report and Minutes
- IV. Presentations
 - a. State Longitudinal Data System Grant (Daniel Ralyea)
 - b. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Report (Matthew Ferguson & Dr. Christine DiStefano)
 - c. Preschool Development Grant (Michael Leach)
Attachments: Impact of South Carolina's Preschool Development Grant, Birth-through-Five (PDG B-5)
- V. Adjourn
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

April 23, 2020, immediately following the SC First Steps Board of Trustees Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99394138157?pwd=WWVleE9ZTmZNY0hRVm1DcStaYnlnUT09>

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (18):

Dave Morley, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Sue Williams
Alexia Newman
Tim Holt
Representative Rita Allison
Roger Pryor, Jr.
Jennifer McConnell
Dr. Shelley Canright
Julie Hussey
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Dr. Amy Williams
Senator Greg Hembree
Senator Gerald Malloy
Dr. David Mathis
Mary Lynne Diggs
Michael Leach
Mary Poole
Walter Fleming

Members Absent (4):

Senator Gerald Malloy
Dr. Rick Toomey
Representative Jerry Govan
Joshua Baker

Others Present

Georgia Mjartan	Samantha Ingram	Avian Jones	Zack Catoe
Debbie Robertson	Cassie Barber	Chelsea Richards	Rosemarie West
Mark Barnes	Betty Gardiner	Beth Moore	Sally Cauthen
Crystal Campbell	Amy Breault	Sarah Eargle	Micha Rea
Jon Artz	Betty Washington	Carletta Israel	Cindy Riley
Kathy Sanders	Pierce McNair	Alicia Turner	Angela Pruitt
Janie Quinn	Janice Kilburn	Gina Beebe	Leslie Terry
Bridgett Shealey	Lynn Kuykendall	Tierra Thomas	Shayla Pettigrew
Angela Compton	Kate Roach	Samantha Janicki	Michael Gaskin
Albean Hanna	Valencia Johnson	Dione Brabham	Tracy Jackson
Sherry Gilliam	Debra Sanders	Kim Archung	Delores Rock
Alexis Pipkin, Sr.	Kristine Jenkins	Dorothy Priester	Felicia Patrick



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order.

Sen. Hembree provided a motion to adopt the ECAC agenda as submitted. Ms. Hussey provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Canright provided a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 minutes as written. Mr. Fleming provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Mathis thanked the agencies around the state for their work during the pandemic and reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee.

Ms. Mjartan provided a report on the Early Childhood Advisory Council and thanked Cassie Barber and Laura Baker for their coordination of the ECAC.

Ms. Mjartan shared Ms. Diggs' message that nationally, Head Start is set to receive \$500 million for summer transition 4K.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Canright provided a second and the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:53 p.m.



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee
Date: June 18, 2020

RE: Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee

The Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) held its regular bi-monthly meeting on May 15, 2020.

The chair welcomed the Dr. Joan Duwve, recently named as DHEC's Director of Public Health and David Morley, Chair of the ECAC and SC First Steps to the committee. Mr. Morley noted the need for the committee's leadership in the development of a statewide plan to address the needs of our state's zero to three-year-old population which has been requested by Governor Henry McMaster.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee received information on the recently awarded Statewide Longitudinal Development System Grant and the Preschool Development Birth – 5 Grant renewal, both of which will be presented to the full Early Childhood Advisory Council during their June meeting.

Georgia Mjartan shared the latest analytics for the Palmetto Pre-K portal, noting that nearly one quarter of the 17,900 visits to the site through May 13 resulted in more than 4,309 leads for publicly funded preschool programs around the state. 3,209 families were eligible for at least one program with Head Start receiving the most leads at 1,951. Georgia presented the Palmetto Pre-K portal to a national roundtable on early childhood systems hosted by the Aspen Institute, where she is an Ascend Fellow. Palmetto Pre-K and ICC members were invited to attend this important event.

Palmetto Pre-K leads fell after radio advertisements funded through the PDG ended February 29. Texts sent out by partners at WIC and SC ETV and some additional outreach activities brought additional visitors to the site. To keep up the program momentum going for fall registrations, the SC Department of Education, the SC Department of Social Services and SC First Steps agreed to contribute funds to purchase radio and social media ads over the summer until PDG funding is once again in place.

The procurement process to publicly post the RFP to select a vendor for continued development of the First5SC .org portal is underway and on-target for this summer.

The full content version of the ECAC website earlychildhoodsc.org is now live and the *Council Briefs* newsletter has been launched. All member agencies and state partners are invited to submit content for these publications.

The committee meets bi-monthly at SC First Steps on the first Tuesday from 1:30 PM until 3:00 PM. The remaining dates for 2020 are July 7, September 1 and November 3.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2020
Via Zoom**

Present: David Mathis, Department of Education, Chair; Georgia Mjartan, First Steps; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Joan Duwve, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Stephanie Frazier, SC ETV; Sue Williams, The Children's Trust; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; David Morley, Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council

Staff to Committee: Cassie Barber, ECAC Program Manager; Laura Baker, ECAC Communications Coordinator

Guest: Chelsea Richard, Strategic Impact Manager, SC First Steps

Absent: Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Leesa Aiken, State Library

Dr. David Mathis called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees including a new member, Dr. Joan Duwve, who was recently named DHEC's Director of Public Health and David Morley, Chair of SC First Steps and the Early Childhood Advisory Council who will be attending ICC meetings as his schedule permits. Mr. Morley shared with the group that Governor McMaster has charged SC First Steps and the ECAC with the development of a statewide plan addressing the needs of our children ages zero through three years old. The expertise of ICC members will be key to the creation and implementation of the plan.

Chelsea Richard announced that the SC Department of Education has received the Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant from the US Department of Education in the amount of \$3.3 million over four years. This grant will incorporate early childhood programs into the state's existing K-12 data system and make the data more accessible to the public. This work will promote better understanding of what works for students with a goal of narrowing achievement gaps and improving overall student achievement.

South Carolina received news in late April that the Department of Social Services will be awarded approximately \$11.1 million per year for the next three years in Preschool Development Grant Renewal funds. The application submitted to the Administration of Children in Families was not funded last year. Additional funds we added to this effort in the most recent federal budget and South Carolina was one of three states to receive the award. DSS is currently working on a finalized budget and the official grant year is April 30, 2020 through April 29, 2021. Michele Bowers, Director of Early Care and Education at DSS is the principal investigator for the grant and can answer any questions.

Georgia Mjartan shared the latest analytics for the Palmetto Pre-K portal, noting that nearly one quarter of the 17,900 visits to the site resulted in more than 3,000 leads for the various preschool programs around the state. Leads are being provided to the appropriate agency for preschool slots first, with DSS vouchers being utilized as a last resort. Georgia shared that she will be presenting the Palmetto Pre-K portal to a national roundtable on early childhood systems later this month by the



Aspen Institute. Georgia is an Ascend Fellow with the Institute and was asked to share this information as a national model that other states may wish to replicate.

The procurement process to publicly post the RFP to select a vendor for completion of the First5SC.org portal is underway and on-target for this summer. Receipt of the PDG funds will support the building of this portal.

Cassie Barber announced that the full content version of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) website which launched in February is now live. She urged ICC members to visit the site (earlychildhoodsc.org) and invited them to submit information they would like to see posted there. She also drew the committee's attention to the inaugural issue of *Council Briefs*, the newsletter of the Early Childhood Advisory Council which launched in April. Like the website, ICC members are invited to submit stories, events, press releases, etc., for inclusion in the monthly newsletter which caters to professional and policy makers in the early childhood community. All submissions can be sent to Cassie or Laura Baker.

Cross-sector Collaboration and Updates:

- The Department of Mental Health is training mental health consultation staff for work with cases involving infants and young children working in collaboration with SCIMHA at MUSC with support from the PDG and Pritzker grants.
- Head Start is celebrating its 55th Anniversary! Early Head Start Centers are reopening with new protocols for dealing with COVID-19. Regional Director Calvin Moore has been promoted to a position in Washington, D.C. and the search for a new regional director has begun.
- DSS continues to be in full response mode dealing with coronavirus challenges. Child care centers are slowly reopening. More than half were closed and operating at reduced capacity in mid-April. About 52% are currently open. The agency is working to allocate the \$63 million in additional CCBDG dollars received via the CARES Act in three primary activities: 1) vouchers for essential workers, 2) facility cleaning grants, 3) operating grants for licensed providers suffering from closure and/or low enrollment. Cleaning supplies and food are sometimes in short supply and the agency is working to locate these essential items for providers.
- The Department of Education shares that 8 million meals have been delivered to children statewide via their schools. The Department is working how to conduct summer K-3 reading camps and on getting guidelines in place for the opening of schools for the fall. No virtual programs are begin offered for preschoolers.
- SC First Steps 4K classrooms and centers are currently providing virtual instruction but will be required to provide in-person instruction beginning in June as a requirement for continued funding. 4K coaches are becoming adept at providing virtual technical assistance for centers. First Steps local partnerships have also pivoted to provide services virtually as much as possible including PAT home visits.
- The Children's Trust reports business as usual, only virtually. MIECHV programs have been given flexibility to provide virtual home visits through January 2021.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee regularly meets bi-monthly from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM on the first Tuesday of odd months. Next meeting dates: July 7, 2020; September 1, 2020; November 3, 2020.

Impact of South Carolina's Preschool Development Grant, Birth-through-Five (PDG B-5)

PDG B-5 is a competitive federal grant that supports states as they work to improve their existing early childhood systems. South Carolina was awarded a second round of PDG B-5 funding in April 2020 in the amount of **\$11,146,654** for a one-year period (April 30, 2020 – April 29, 2021). This grant will be renewed for 2021-22 and 2022-23, assuming Congress appropriates funding. SCDSS is the state's lead agency for PDG B-5, with the required a 30 percent non-federal match provided by South Carolina First Steps' CERDEP funding. **This renewal grant will enable South Carolina to expand the work begun with initial PDG funding to achieve the following outcomes:**

Child-serving agencies and organizations sharing a common vision, goals, and outcomes for the B-5 system

- Regular cycle of assessing the needs of children 0-5 and their families, including regular feedback loops with parents and community members
- Build on the initial year's planning work to develop a **comprehensive B-5 strategic plan** led by the ECAC that integrates the plans of individual agencies into shared objectives and success benchmarks
- Support for statewide coalition work (Child Well-Being Coalition/SCDHEC) and early childhood policy leadership (Education Policy Fellows/SC-SIC)

Shared recruitment and application processes

- Continue/expand **Palmetto PreK** common identity and service portal (ECAC)
- Launch **First Five SC** common identity and service portal (ECAC)
- Develop a **common application** for public early childhood programs (ECAC)

Coordinated efforts to maximize parents' knowledge, choice, and engagement

- Expanding the reach of **evidence-based parenting** and family support programs (First Steps)
- Common public education campaigns
- Supporting the state's existing network of system navigators to increase equitable access to services, with an equity focus (PASOs, Help Me Grow, Family Connection)
- Establishing a **two-generation (2 Gen) office** within state government to support the development of family-friendly, equity-focused policies across agencies (ECAC)

Statewide activities to support transitions for children between various early childhood programs and into elementary school

- Increasing the reach of transition strategies, including **Countdown to Kindergarten** (First Steps, SC-SIC)
- Increasing access to transition supports for preschool children with special needs (SCDE, Family Connection)

Shared professional development and mental health supports to better meet the complex social and emotional development needs of vulnerable children and families, including trauma-informed care

- **"Jamboree"** professional development events for infant/toddler and preschool teachers across the system
- Learning communities/communities of practice/multi-disciplinary workforce development
- Increased access to quality professional development and aligned credentials for the early childhood workforce (SC Endeavors, SCETV, SCDE, Children's Trust/SC Home Visiting Consortium)
- Expand infant and early childhood **mental health consultation** services (SCIMHA)
- Workforce supports, such as Be Well Care Well (SCIMHA)

Expanded supports to providers to improve quality

- **Incentive grants** to providers for achieving/sustaining higher quality levels (SCDSS DECE)
- **Increased coaching and consultation** support for providers to improve quality, with targeted support for serving infants/toddlers and children with special needs (First Steps, SCIMHA, SC Inclusion Collaborative)
- **Incentive bonuses** to increase retention, achieve higher credentials within the child care and home visiting workforce (SCDSS DECE, Children's Trust/SC Home Visiting Consortium)
- Pilot **mixed delivery models** of combining child care subsidy funding with other public sources – First Steps 4K, Head Start – to increase and sustain quality
- Supports to the **family child care industry** to create new providers, increase quality (First Steps, SCDSS DECE)

Improved data-driven decision making

- Funding to develop an **Integrated Early Childhood Data System (ECIDS)** for SC's publicly funded early childhood programs within the state's Data Warehouse (SC Dept. of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs)
- Develop a child-centered, unified data system for First Steps programs