



## **Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council**

October 22, 2020, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95107926368?pwd=eDFON3NoSXRvbXQrVmliEkzUjFMQT09>

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)  
**Motion:** To adopt the agenda as submitted.
  
- II. Approve August 20, 2020 Minutes (David Morley)  
**Attachments:** August 20, 2020 Minutes  
**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 20, 2020 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting.
  
- III. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)  
**Attachments:** Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, Build It Back Better Summary
  
- IV. Adjourn  
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

August 19, 2020, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/98151204375?pwd=cFhQZTd1Snk4YW5GV0NPUVBQZndJQT09>  
Draft Minutes

### **Members Present (15):**

Dave Morley, Chair  
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair  
Sue Williams  
Alexia Newman  
Walter Fleming  
Tim Holt  
Dr. Shelly Canright  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Roger Pryor, Jr.

Dr. Amy Williams  
Jennifer McConnell  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Dr. David Mathis  
Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Sen. Greg Hembree

### **Members Absent (6):**

Mary Poole  
Angel Johnson-Brebner  
Joshua Baker  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Marshal Taylor  
Michael Leach

### **Others Present(42):**

Georgia Mjartan  
Zack Catoe  
Avian Jones  
Samantha Ingram  
Chelsea Richard  
A Brewton  
Anna Workman  
Beth Moore  
Betty Gardiner  
Cassie Barber  
Cindy Ellis  
Cindy Galloway  
Corey Dwyer  
Crystal Campbell  
Debbie Robertson  
Dione Brabham  
Doris Rock  
Donna Barton  
Jenn Adams  
Jennifer Williams  
Jon Artz

Joy Mazur  
Kim Archung  
Kim Trudell  
Kristine Jenkins  
Laura Barber  
Lavinia Tejada  
Marie Stewart  
Mark Barnes  
Martha Strickland  
Paula Durham  
Pierce  
Reginald Williams  
Sarah Eargle  
Sharon Bruton  
Sheila Cornwell  
SheKiah Reese  
Shayla Pettigrew  
Tiffany Outlaw  
Verline Jacques



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Canright provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Mathis provided the Interagency Collaboration Committee report. The committee welcomed new member, Eric Bellamy from the Children's Trust.

Ms. Richard provided the overall findings from the Build It Back Better Survey. Ms. Mjartan mentioned that these findings are being shared and reviewed on a state and national level.

Ms. Mjartan discussed the agency being selected to participate in the Early Childhood Education Business Collaboratory, which is hosted by First Children's Finance.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McConnell provided a second and the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 4:10 p.m.



## **Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council October 22, 2020**

### **Preschool Development Grant Progress**

#### **Portals Update - Parent Knowledge and Access to Services**

- 1) Expanded outreach and enrollment via Palmetto Pre-K
- 2) RFP to build First5SC.org (through MMO due to contract size)

#### **Staff Positions – Hiring in Process**

- 1) State Longitudinal Development System Project Coordinator
- 2) Two Generation Coordinator
- 3) Community Education and Outreach AmeriCorps Members (2)

### **Build It Back Better – Child Care**

#### **Child Care Needs Survey of Parents and Caregivers of Young Children in SC**

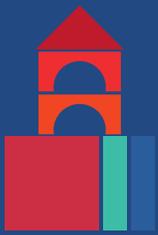
- 1) Regional Reports now posted
- 2) Town Hall planning underway

#### **SC ECE Business Collaboratory**

- 1) Active and engaged state team
- 2) Significant technical assistance and state support from First Children's Finance

### **Early Childhood Strategic Plan**

- 1) Initial draft in development
- 2) Facilitation process and involvement from members of the ECAC Board of Trustees, Interagency Collaboration Committee members and designated staff



# BUILD IT BACK BETTER SURVEY

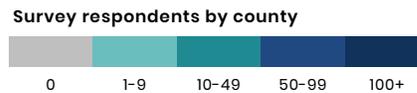
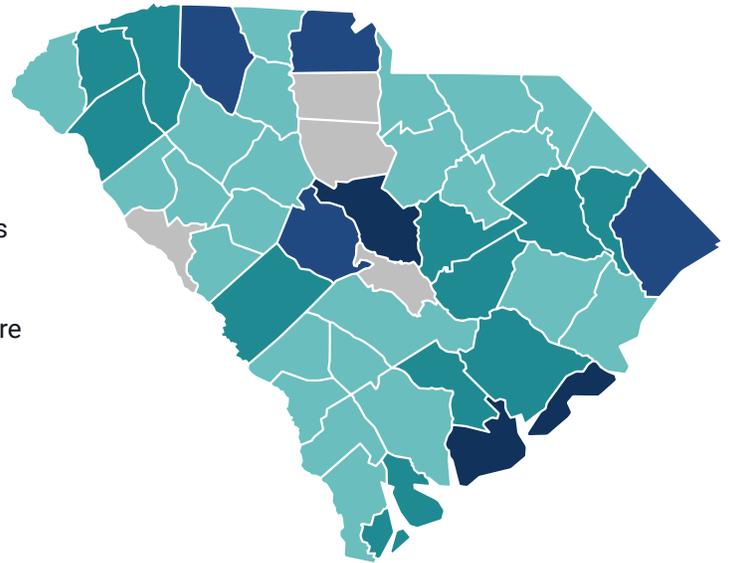
## Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on Young Children, their Families, and Child Care Needs in South Carolina

A state of emergency was issued for South Carolina on March 13, 2020. From July 10 to August 9, 2020, we surveyed parents and caregivers of children 0-5 in South Carolina. Our findings represent 1,245 responses from 42 of 46 counties across the state.

SEPTEMBER 2020

### KEY FINDINGS

- Disruptions in child care have required parents and caregivers of young children to modify or reduce their work schedules.
- Since March 13, 2020, families have relied on unpaid child care as the most common type of child care arrangement.
- Currently available child care options are not adequate for many working families.
- This crisis poses an acute threat to the wellbeing of young children and their families.
- There is no one-size-fits-all solution.



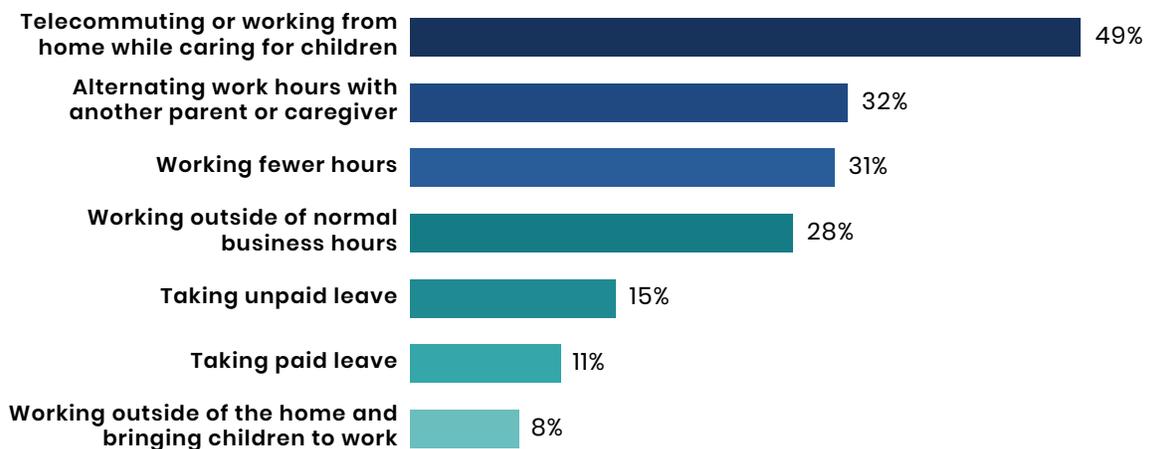
### RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey respondents most frequently identified as residing in the Midlands, white, and 35-44 years old.

**56%** of respondents worked part-time or full time over the past month

→ **53%** of them identified as an essential worker

**Parents and caregivers of young children have had to adapt their work schedules in response to changing child care arrangements.** Most are telecommuting, alternating work hours with someone in their household, or working fewer hours in order to provide child care.



**“ I’m continuously going from job to job because of child care arrangements. Employers don’t want to work with the hours I can work. It’s hard trying to keep a steady job and having to pay for someone to watch my kids. ”**

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

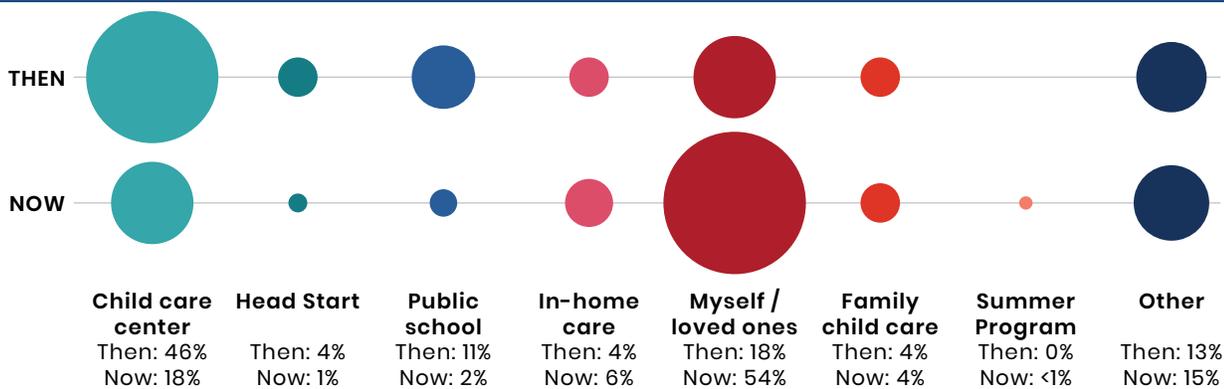
“ It’s exhausting to manage child care and the duties of my job. It feels like I’m failing at both sometimes; being a mom and my job.

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

“ Unfortunately, we need to be a two income family. With COVID-19 we have become a one-income family. We need one parent at home with our immunocompromised child. Before COVID began we weren’t as wary of nannies or small daycare center but now we can not risk it.

PARENT OF 2 YOUNG CHILDREN, PEE DEE

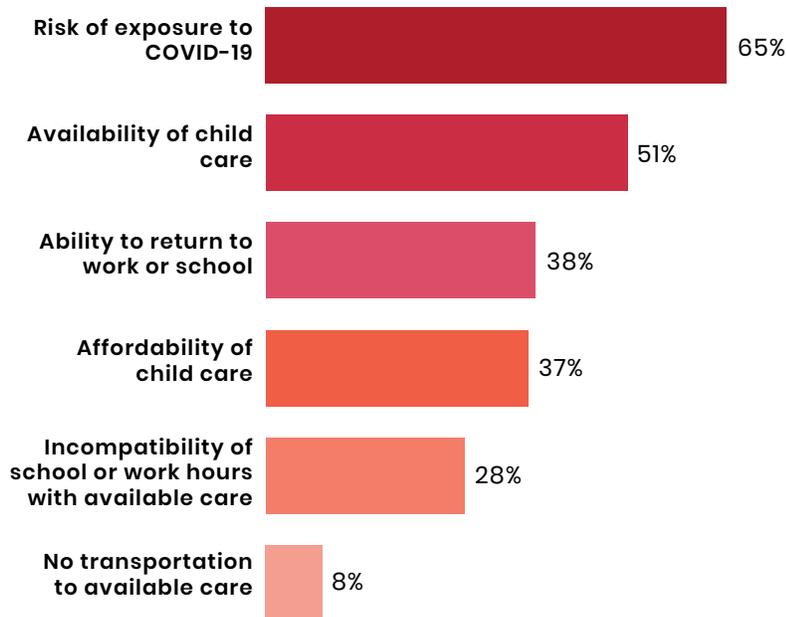
**Child care arrangements have shifted from center-based to unpaid care.** Before March 13, 46% of families reported using a child care center. Now 54% report using unpaid care.



“ We would prefer to have an in-home nanny to reduce the risk for COVID exposures. At this time, we are not able to afford such an arrangement. We are too concerned about COVID to send our child back to daycare but what we are doing is not sustainable either. I also worry that my child is not getting exposure to other children. Everything about this is hard.

PARENT OF 1 YOUNG CHILD, MIDLANDS

**Most families report that they are moderately or very concerned about COVID-19 exposure** when thinking about child care over the next three months.



**Most parents and caregivers worry about the effects of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of their children and families.**

**83%** That their young children are missing out on important developmental opportunities, e.g. socialization and learning

**75%** The mental health of their young children

**72%** Their own mental health

**67%** Their ability to meet the basic needs of their families

**39%** That their children with special health care or educational needs are not receiving adequate support

“ My child care was perfect then my sitter became concerned about leaving her house and catching COVID. I was not worried but she locked herself up in the house and my sitter was gone.

GRANDPARENT OF 2 YOUNG CHILDREN, UPSTATE

**83%** of parents and caregivers say they are **more stressed and anxious** than usual.