



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 15, 2023, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Trustees Present (14):

Rep. Terry Alexander
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Tim Holt
Dave Morley
Janie Neeley
Roger Pryor

Dr. Edward Simmer
Wes Wooten
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams
Dr. Brenda Williams

Trustees Absent (8)

Mary Lynne Diggs
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Sen. Greg Hembree
Constance Holloway
Robert Kerr
Mike Leach
Jessica Mackey
Sen. Gerald Malloy

Attendees (65)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Beth Moore
Laura Baker
Alie Boykin
Amber Gillum
Amy Engle
Andrea Larry
Ashlea Hatcher
Ben Gibson
Berry Kelly
Betty Gardiner
Betty Washington
Brandie Maness
Bruce Taylor
Candi Lalonde
Carletta Isreal
Chastine Dickey-Jackson
Cindy Ellis
Darcy Huffman
Derek Cromwell
Dorian Young
Dwana Doctor
Faith McCaul
Felicia Battle

Gina Beebe
Jennifer Williams
Jenny May
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kaitlyn Richards
Karen Oliver
Kate Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kathy Jenkins
Katie Perkins
Kelly Boniecki
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kim Trudell
Kristen Martocchio
Kristine Jenkins
LaMyra Dukes
Leah Crosby
Lexi Jones
Lis Guimaraes
Mark Barnes
Martha Strickland
Meredith Dickens
Myrelo King
Pauletta Plowden

Rachal Hatton
Riley Dixon
Roddrick Dugger
Ryan Shinn
Sally McClellan
Samantha Ingram
Sarah Eargle
Sarah Holcutt
Stacy Greenwalt
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
SheKiah Reese
Tamatha Kohler
Tricia Gordon



The meeting began at 3:12 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Rep. Alexander provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes. Dr. Canright provided the motion. Dr. Simmer provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Gillum provided an update on DSS's work of expanding transportation availability to families as a result of amended objective 2.4 in the SC Birth through Five Strategic Plan. In efforts to increase childcare infrastructure across the state, DSS is launching the Success Grants Project, which are startup grants for individuals who wish to open a licensed center or license to regulate family child care homes. DSS will launch an additional round of materials grants for existing providers. This will provide funds for a wide range of activities such as classroom materials, outdoor equipment, renovations, and other improvements. Grants will be available to all regulated child care providers as well as license exempt who are enrolled in ABC Quality. Wage supplements for child care providers will go into effect in August. Currently, there are enough stimulus funds to cover one year of supplements. A conversation will take place about how DSS will intend to sustain this effort moving forward, given the fact that the stimulus is running out and the recurring funds are not sufficient to covering the costs. In FY24 DSS will increase the number of child care scholarships awarded to local partnerships from 385 to 579.

Dr. Simmer provided a WIC update. He shared that participation is up by 9,000 from last year. The state breast feeding rate has increased from 20.7 in 2021 to 29.3 as of March 2023. The redemption rates for fresh foods and vegetables through the extra cash value benefit that's now available in the WIC program increased from 61% to 71% over the past year. South Carolina WIC was selected as a subgrantee of the USDA and Tufts University Grant, which is focusing on telehealth intervention strategies to develop online mobile-friendly telehealth technologies. This will provide WIC participants enhanced access to services.

Ms. Gillum reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee.

Ms. Mjartan presented the South Carolina's Birth through Five Progress Report. She provided an update on First 5 SC analytics.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Simmer provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 3:48 p.m.