



**Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council**  
February 16, 2023, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting  
SC First Steps  
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)  
**Motion:** To adopt the agenda as submitted.
  
- II. Meeting Minutes (David Morley)  
**Motion:** To approve ECAC Minutes of December 2, 2022  
**Attachment:** December 2, 2022 Minutes
  
- III. Needs Assessment (Leigh D’Amico, Ed.D)
  
- IV. Presentations and Updates from ECAC Members
  
- V. Information
  - a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Amber Gillum)  
**Attachment:** Interagency Collaboration Committee Recap
  - b. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)  
**Attachment:** ECAC Report on Activities
  
- VI. Adjourn (David Morley)  
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

December 2, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting  
SC First Steps  
*Draft Minutes*

### **Members Present (10):**

Rep. Paula Calhoon  
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair  
Jacque Curtin  
Mary Lynne Diggs  
Dr. Michelle Fry  
Tim Holt  
Dr. David Mathis  
Jennifer McConnell  
Dave Morley, Chairman

Dr. Amy Williams

### **Members Absent (12):**

John Hayes  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Robert Kerr  
Mike Leach  
Jessica Mackey  
Sen. Gerald Malloy

Janie Neeley  
Alexia Newman  
Roger Pryor  
Dr. Edward Simmer  
Sue Williams  
Nicole Wynkoop

### **Attendees (47)**

Georgia Mjartan  
Avian Jones  
Chelsea Richard  
Kaitlyn Richards  
Mark Barnes  
Karen Oliver  
Martha Strickland  
Derek Cromwell  
Beth Moore  
Lexi Jones  
Duchett Hylton  
Dwana Doctor  
Anita Singleton  
Cindy Riley  
Candi Lalonde  
Kathy Jenkins  
Jade Wright  
Kenna Hoover  
Shayla Pettigrew  
LC Baker  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Jon Artz  
Joy Mazur  
Tiffany Outlaw  
Dorian Young  
Cindy Galloway

Van-Kim Lin  
Samantha Ingram  
Rachal Hatton-Moore  
Jennifer Williams  
Michelle Bowers  
Rochelle Gamble  
Shakira Fulton  
Felicia Patrick  
Pernerva Thomas  
Betty Washington  
Sarah Eargle  
Valencia Johnson  
Kerry Cordan  
Kate Roach  
Elizabeth Dudek  
Santasha Highley  
Sheila Jones  
Shekiah Reese  
Felicia Battle  
Carletta Isreal  
Kim Chariker



The meeting began at 2:53pm.

Ms. Morley acknowledged that a quorum was not met.

Dr. Richard introduced Van-Kim Lin of Child Trends. Ms. Lin presented on the Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC) initiative. The ECDC supports state policymakers' development and use of coordinated state early care and education (ECE) data systems. The ECDC provides tools and resources to encourage data-driven state policy changes and provide a national forum to support the development and use of coordinated state ECE data systems. She shared the information about the target audiences and outreach strategies that are being implemented to fulfill this initiative.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on the First Five SC portal. Since February 2022 there were 68,000 visits to the portal. The common application from this portal will launch in early 2023 for the agencies that have chosen to participate. She shared that full, recurring funding for the Early Childhood Advisory Council was requested in the budget request.

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and their continued work on the Birth through Five Strategic Plan.

The meeting ended at 3:28pm.



## **Interagency Collaboration Committee Meeting Recap January 6, 2023**

Present: Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Matthew Ferguson, Department of Education; Joyce Kimrey and Bill Simpson, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education

Absent: Leesa Aiken, SC State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Debbie Blalock and Louise Johnson and, Department of Mental Health; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; David Mathis, Department of Education; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Guests: Abbey Duggins, Department of Education; Rhina Medina, First Steps Social Work Intern

ECAC Staff: Laura Baker, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Myrelo King, Karen Oliver, Chelsea Richard, Kaitlyn Richards

### Call to Order and Welcome

Georgia Mjartan convened the meeting at 1:05 PM. Each participant introduced him or herself and identified their representative agency.

Ms. Mjartan announced that Amber Gillum agreed to serve as ICC Chair, as David Mathis retired from Department of Education.

### ICC Meeting Dates

ICC meetings will be in person. Ms. Gillum requested that agency staff with authority to implement actions at their respective agencies attend ICC meetings. However, agency leaders may send a designee or bring additional staff as appropriate.

ICC will meet the first Monday of March, May, and November at SC First Steps, 636 Rosewood Drive. The meetings are scheduled from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Laura Baker will send Outlook invitations.

### Birth through Five Plan: Next Steps

ICC discussed key items to include in the Birth through Five Plan status report. The status report will be presented to the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) at its April meeting. The purpose of the report is to update key stakeholders on recent early childhood (system) wins/achievements and to outline milestones we'll be charting through the year.

ICC identified "wins," to include in the report. These items will be re-crafted by ECAC staff to reflect the scope and significance of the achievement more accurately. Similarly, ICC selected milestones to monitor during the next year. ICC also agreed that it was not the right time to report updates in Measures of Success. Given that this is a five-year plan, for many of the measures one year is too soon to expect significant or even demonstrable change.

### ICC Collaboration Opportunities and Updates

Moving forward, ICC updates will strive to focus on cross agency issues and information that is useful to know, understand or act upon at the agency level.

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM



## Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Activities February 16, 2023

### SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- A Data Governance Coordinator, Myrelo King, began work in January
- Current initiatives of the SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System in progress
  - Early Learning Extension of the K-12 Statewide Longitudinal Data System
    - Goals
      - Assign unique IDs to children during early childhood
      - Integrate early childhood data
      - Link early childhood data to K-12 outcomes via unique ID (i.e., longitudinal data)
      - Visualize and report data to answer key questions
  - Palmetto Drive to Five Data Dashboard
    - Goals
      - Integrate early childhood data using Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) algorithm
      - Visualize and report data to answer key questions
    - The Drive to Five Dashboard will be presented by RFA at the April ECAC meeting

### Palmetto PreK and First Five SC

Palmetto Pre-K (portal address: [www.PalmettoPrek.org](http://www.PalmettoPrek.org))

**Feb. 1, 2020 – January 31, 2023**

Unique website visitors: 145,004

Total leads: 20,687

Eligible for at least one program: 16,836

Head Start eligible: 8,488

First Steps 4K eligible: 5,441

Public school eligible: 7,931

SC DSS voucher eligible: 2,982

#### First Five SC

- See First Five SC Report
- A test group with families will be held February 17, 2023, and First Five SC project manager will hold two First Five SC Open Office virtual sessions during testing period to answer questions with stakeholders.

### Family Voice Council (FVC)

1. 18 parents now represent the Family Voice Council; two applicants are being onboarded for seats for 2023.
2. FVC meetings
  - a. Five FVC members attended the 2022 Summit on Early Childhood, and three hosted a Family Voice studio session.
  - b. At the January 2023 meeting, members expressed their vision for the year includes assisting with developing content for the 2023 Summit, and undergoing communications strategies to share their stories with families and public leaders across the state.
  - c. Planned meetings for Winter/Spring 2023 include Summit planning, reviewing the updated progress in the Birth through Five Plan, meeting with the Division of Early Care and Education at SC DSS, and with the SC Inclusion Collaborative.

## Grants

1. Alliance for Early Success
  - a. Alliance for Early Success invited SC First Steps/ECAC to present about First Five SC at its May webinar.
  - b. The Alliance has been helpful in connecting SC with other states and partners with mutual interests in improving outcomes for young children and their families
2. Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
  - a. South Carolina is completing the third year of its three-year PDG renewal grant.
    - i. SC DSS, the lead agency, and its partners are preparing requests for no-cost extensions to complete work begun in 2020.
    - ii. PDG funds substantially support ECAC staff and work, including First Five SC.
  - b. South Carolina was awarded a new PDG Planning Grant in late December 2022.
    - i. The grant is awarded for 2023 calendar year
    - ii. The grant emphasizes strengthening SC's integrated early childhood system, preparing low income and disadvantaged children to enter kindergarten, investing in the early childhood workforce, and expanding access to high-quality ECCE programs in SC's mixed delivery system.
      1. If funds are available, SC may apply for a(nother) renewal grant that will begin in 2024
    - iii. Like the first PDG award, SC DSS serves as the lead agency and SC First Steps provided the match.
3. Pritzker Children's Initiative– Support State and Local Leaders to Build Comprehensive Early Childhood System Portals
  - a. The Pritzker grant supports ECAC staff in organizing and implementing activities to promote the development of early childhood system portals across the country. The Pritzker grant provides staff the opportunity to
    - i. Share information about portals at conferences and other gatherings of state and professional leaders
    - ii. Create toolkits and technical assistance materials to support state systems about lessons learned in portal development, specifically First Five SC as a model.



South Carolina  
**Early Childhood  
 Advisory Council**



First Five SC (<https://first5sc.org>)

1. Officially launched February 17, 2022.
2. Common application development is underway, public testing begins mid-February and public release is planned for March 2023.

**Portal**

February 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

Unique Visitors—97,261

Unique Leads—\*8646

Pageviews—219,630

Month	# unique visitors	# unique families that completed the eligibility screener	# families eligible for at least 1 program (leads)
Feb	7,098	695	562
Mar	5,718	743	627
Apr	3,386	255	215
May	5,904	371	309
June	4,939	479	398
July	8,301	714	609
August	8,739	916	763
September	8,961	961	704
October	15,035	1,309	946
November	16,227	1,490	1,126
December	11,499	1,210	895
January	1,454	146	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,261</b>	<b>9,289</b>	<b>7,278</b>

*\*Monthly # of unique leads and # of families eligible are reflective of all entries during the measured monthly period. Total YTD # of unique leads and # of families eligible removes duplicate entries and therefore will be less than the sum of monthly totals.*

*\*Note substantive decrease in January 2023 attributed to sharp decline in paid media, and may also represent seasonality of organic site users; strategies will be employed in 2023 to grow organic reach.*

