



## Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

October 21, 2021, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93597311398?pwd=dkl3MkRKbytrMEtvMHJkQ2JqQWVYUT09>

### 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 August 19, 2021  
**Attachment:** August 19, 2021 Minutes
  
- III. South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (Bill Potapchuk)  
**Motion:** To approve Principles of South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (requires motion and second)  
**Attachment:** South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan Executive Summary: Principles, page 3
  
- IV. South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (Bill Potapchuk)  
**Motion:** To approve Key Measures of Success in South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (requires motion and second)  
**Attachment:** South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan Executive Summary: Key Measures of Success, page 4
  
- V. South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (Bill Potapchuk)  
**Motion:** To approve Objectives and Strategies of South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan (requires motion and second)  
**Attachment:** South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan Executive Summary: Objectives and Strategies, pages 5-8
  
- VI. Information
  - a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (David Mathis)  
**Attachment:** Interagency Collaboration Committee Recap
  - b. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)  
**Attachment:** Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
  
- VII. Adjourn (David Morley)  
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



## Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

August 19, 2021, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/92196505922?pwd=WnA4MFlYZWJXWmFJU21xK2YzWndFdz09>  
*Draft Minutes*

### **Members Present (16):**

Dave Morley, Chair  
Dr. Shelley Canright  
Sen. Greg Hembree  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Rep. Jerry Govan  
Dr. David Mathis  
Sue Williams  
Michael Leach

Dr. Edward Simmer  
Walter Fleming  
Tim Holt  
Jennifer McConnell  
Dr. Amy Williams  
Jesica Mackey  
John Hayes  
Nicole Wynkoop

### **Members Absent (7):**

Sen. Gerald Malloy  
Robert Kerr  
Constance Holloway  
Alexia Newman  
Roger Pryor  
Janie Neeley  
Mary Lynne Diggs

### **Others Present (66)**

Georgia Mjartan  
Abby Thorman  
A Brewton  
Adrienne Troy Frazier  
Aleisha Butler  
Amy Engle  
Ariel Gilreath  
Audrey McClary  
Avian Jones  
Barbara Manoski  
Berry Kelly  
Beth Moore  
Betty Gardiner  
Betty Washington  
Bill Potapchuk  
Blaire Van Dyne  
Carletta Isreal  
Chastine Dickey  
Chelsea Richard  
Cheryl Scales-Chavis  
Christy Stanton  
Cindy Ellis  
Cindy Galloway  
Crystal Campbell

Delores Rock  
Derek Cromwell  
Diana Cadena  
Dione Brabham  
Dorian Young  
Dorina Foster  
Dorothy Priester  
Gina Beebe  
Janice Kilburn  
Jared Busker  
Jennifer Williams  
Jenny May  
Jon Artz  
Joy Mazur  
Justina Siuba  
Karen Oliver  
Kate Roach  
Kathy Fitzgerald  
Katrina Bost  
Kerry Cordan  
Kim Trudell  
Kristine Jenkins  
Laura Baker  
Lis Guimaraes

Lavinia Tejada  
Marie Stewart  
Mark Barnes  
Mary Beth Testa  
Pierce McNair  
Rachal Hatton  
Reginald Williams  
Rogers Pender  
Rosemarie West  
Ryan Shinn  
Sally Cauthen  
Shayla Pettigrew  
Shelia Cornwell  
Stacy Greenwalt  
Tammy Hutcherson  
Tiffany Outlaw  
Valerie Johnson  
Willa Wingate

Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.



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

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes. Dr. Canright provided the motion. Dr. Simmer provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jusitna Siuba, the ECAC Data Governance Coordinator reported on the SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System.

Mr. Holt provided a motion to adopt the following Key Questions for the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System:

- a. What early childhood programs, statewide, are available for eligible young children?
- b. How many young children are there?
- c. How many young children are eligible for early childhood programs?
- d. How many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs?
- e. Are those enrolled in early childhood programs on track to succeed?
- f. What is the return on investment for early childhood programs?

Dr. Simmer seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Bill Potapchuk of Community Building Institute presented the working draft of the South Carolina Birth through Five Plan and provided an opportunity for the board to ask questions and make suggestions. The final plan will be presented in October for board approval.

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

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:36 p.m.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee  
Meeting Recap  
September 7, 2021**

Present: Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Leesa Aiken, State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health;

Absent: David Mathis, Department of Education, Chair; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Staff: Karen Oliver, Laura Baker, Rachal Hatton-Moore, Justina Siuba, SC First Steps/ECAC

Call to Order and Welcome

Georgia Mjartan convened the meeting.

First Five South Carolina

Rachal Hatton-Moore provided an update on First Five South Carolina. Eligibility for more than 60 programs has been mapped for posting on the [www.FirstSC.org](http://www.FirstSC.org) website. The First Five team is in the process of verifying program information.

To assure utility and quality end-user experience, Hatton-Moore will be inviting ICC members to serve as "testers" in October and November. Phase 1 of First Five will be launched in December.

SC Transitions Planning

Hatton-Moore also leads transitions work. "Transitions" generally is defined as a child's move from home or out of home care to kindergarten. First Steps and the ECAC are receiving technical assistance from the Education Commission of the States to develop its transitions work. A plan will be presented to the ECAC for its consideration at the October meeting.

Highlights of transitions work includes surveying parents about their interests and needs relating to transitions, surveying child care providers about what they think teachers and parents should know about going to kindergarten, and surveying kindergarten teachers about what they'd like parents and child care providers to know to help children successfully move to kindergarten. The transitions work group is using Profile of a Kindergartener to develop tools that will help children, parents, child care providers and kindergarten teachers.

SC Family Voice Council

Family Voice Council (FVC) members had their first meeting at the end of August. FVC members come from across the state and represent recipients of a range of services and supports in the public sector. FVC meets monthly, and each participant receives a stipend.

The purpose of FVC is to formalize loops to collect and act on feedback secured from FVC members. Agency members of the ICC are invited and encouraged to engage the FVC in the review or develop of policies and programs impacting young children and their families. FVC invites ICC members to invite parents from their service operations to apply to FVC. FVC invites parents who use home visiting, BabyNet, and community mental health services to participate. ICC members who represent these services agreed to support recruitment.

### SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SC EIDS)

Justina Siuba proved an update on SC EIDS. Working group members are engaged in the planning and design phase of the project. They are looking for case studies to demonstrate value of integrated data, and to encourage participation in the system. The workgroup also is developing a charter that outlines roles and responsibilities of SC EIDS users.

### Birth Through Five Plan Timeline

Mjartan shared the Birth through Five Plan timeline. The plan will be posted September 17. The comment period is September 17 through October 30. A public meeting is scheduled for September 22. Registration to speak at the meeting will be posted September 17. Mjartan thanked ICC members for their review and feedback on the plan. She asked that ICC members share the plan with their stakeholders to increase dissemination of the plan. ICC members reported ways they could link their audiences to the plan.

### ICC Collaboration Opportunities and Updates

- The Department of Mental Health is using an integrated ESSA grant to fund Circle of Serenity. The project helps children and families with a history of trauma receive assessment and intervention.
- The Department of Health and Human Services received \$3 million for technology training and public awareness. The early intervention staff is not able to get into child care centers to provide Baby Net services due to COVID restrictions and closures.
- The SC Head Start Collaboration Office has been trying to maximize services. The Lancaster Head Start office is working with the Lancaster First Steps office and using Pyramid Model for children with special needs. The Head Start Collaborative grant deadline was September 3rd, and 12 grants were awarded.
- SC Children's Trust introduced the Family Resource Center Network. Thirty-eight people registered for Quality Standards training. MIECHV is making innovation grants. Children's Trust will use technology build a central intake portal to increase access to services.
- SCETV Kids Club mailings continue to be successful. A new family and consumer science cluster will be included in holiday mail-out. A new show, "Alma's Way" was recently introduced to public television
- First Steps 4K is adding new centers. Covid continues to impact child care. On September 2, 56 of 280 classrooms were closed due to COVID. Coaches/home visitors are using indoor/outdoor strategies to support classrooms and families.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM



## **Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council For October 21, 2021**

### **Early Childhood Strategic Plan**

Public Comment period garnered feedback from more than 33 individuals, stakeholder groups and organizations, including the Family Voice Council, local business leaders, The Duke Endowment, and Bank Street College.

### **Integrated Early Childhood Data**

1. The Data Governance Work Group is finalizing the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) Data Governance Charter to define scope, activities, roles and responsibilities, and goals for the Data Governance Work Group
  - a) The Charter formally establishes data governance (both the structure and the organizing framework) and acknowledges a participating agency's commitment to the data governance of the ECIDS
  - b) The foundation of the Charter comes from actions passed by the ECAC
2. The Data Governance Work Group is drafting a sustainability plan with SC Department of Education (SCDE) and SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA)
3. See SC ECIDS Overview, attached, for more information

### **First Five SC**

1. First Five SC finalized eligibility and program information
2. Team made design decisions and vendor, 37 Gears, began programming portal
  - a. 60 programs and services across 10 agencies are featured.
3. Community convenings are planned with stakeholder groups in late October
4. Testing is planned for November, in preparation for soft launch in December.

### **www.PalmettoPrek.org**

1. 75,931 unique website visitors to date (February 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)
2. 12,775 leads (children ages 3 or 4)
3. 10,536 children eligible for at least one program:
  - a. Head Start eligible: 5,258
  - b. First Steps 4K eligible: 4,124
  - c. Public school eligible: 5,360
  - d. SC DSS voucher eligible: 1,730

### **Family Voice Council (FVC)**

1. 24 total interest forms received
  - a. 14 families met eligibility requirement (to be recipient of a public benefit or service)
  - b. 10 families completed on-boarding
  - c. 2 families are in on-boarding process
2. 8 Family Voice Council seats still open, and recruitment is on-going



3. First (virtual) meetings held in August and September
  - a. FVC provided input on SC Birth-Five Plan
  - b. FVC will provide input on First Five SC at October meeting

### Transitions

1. The Palmetto Pre-K Transitions Workgroup has met monthly since February 2021, to align efforts between agencies and develop system-wide supports for families that assist in the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten.
  - a. Workgroup supported with TA from the Education Commission of the States for the development of the "South Carolina Pre-K - K Transitions Plan: Family Engagement"
2. The drafted plan includes background and current efforts, a landscape analysis of federal and state policies that relate to family engagement and kindergarten transition, and a compendium of transitions-related resources and programs.
  - a. Tactics in the draft include public awareness campaigns, developing special features for [www.palmettoprek.org](http://www.palmettoprek.org) specific to transition, and creation of toolkits for both early childhood educators and families.
  - b. The tactics align with the SC Birth through Five Plan strategies related to transitions (Objective 2.1: *Parents have the knowledge and skills to be excellent caregivers, and are actively engaged in their children's development, health, learning, and transitions*)

### 2021 Summit on Early Childhood, From the Start: Prenatal to Three

1. Thursday afternoon, and Friday morning, December 2 and 3
  - a. The conference will be virtual over the course of two half-days
  - b. In process of selecting vendor for virtual production
  - c. Registration will be free. [Summit on Early Childhood - SC First Steps](#)
    - i. Registration open week of October 25.
2. Featured Speakers: Dr. Dipesh Navsaria  
Dr. Iheoma Iruka
3. Champion for Children: Debbie Robertson

### Grants

1. Alliance for Early Success
  - a. 2021-2022 grantor/grantee and kick-off meetings held in late September
  - b. Two TA providers, True North and Zero to Three, shared feedback on South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan
2. Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
  - a. Approximately 250 children are participating in Catch Up to Kindergarten, an effort to support children and families entering Kindergarten who did not have the benefit of a Countdown experience. The program runs October through December.
  - b. Rachal Hatton-Moore, ECAC Two-gen Coordinator, and Georgia Mjartan, First Steps Executive Director, are presenting First Five SC at the PDG (virtual) Convening, October 18- 21.



- c. Child Trends invited SC to be part of its integrated data presentation. Justina Siuba, ECAC Data Governance Coordinator, will be part of Child Trends' presentation



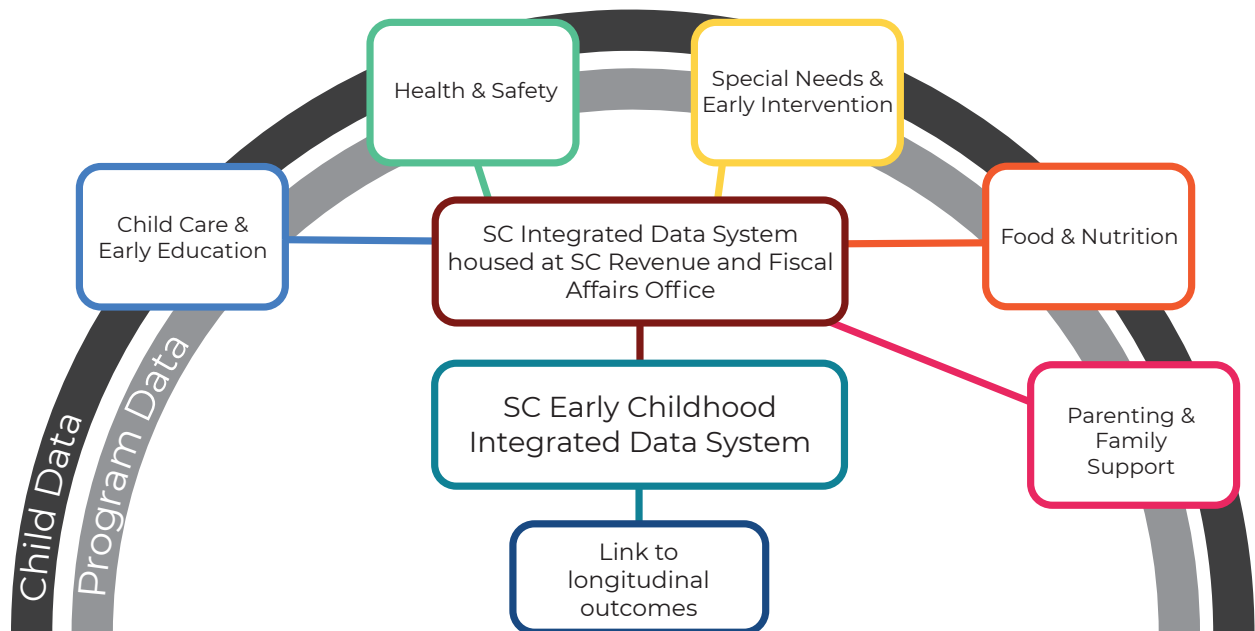
# South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System

The mission of the **South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS)** is to establish and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure for integrated, accurate, and actionable data to support children, families, and communities in South Carolina.

The integration of early childhood data, beyond state and federally funded programs serving children under age six in South Carolina, will answer questions that cannot be answered by a single program.

## KEY QUESTIONS

1. What early childhood programs, statewide, are available for eligible young children?
2. How many young children are there?
3. How many young children are eligible for early childhood programs?
4. How many young children are enrolled in early childhood programs?
5. Are those enrolled in early childhood programs on track to succeed?
6. What is the return on investment for early childhood programs?



For the most up to date details, please visit [earlychildhoodsc.org/what-we-do/sc-early-childhood-integrated-data-system/](http://earlychildhoodsc.org/what-we-do/sc-early-childhood-integrated-data-system/).

# South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System

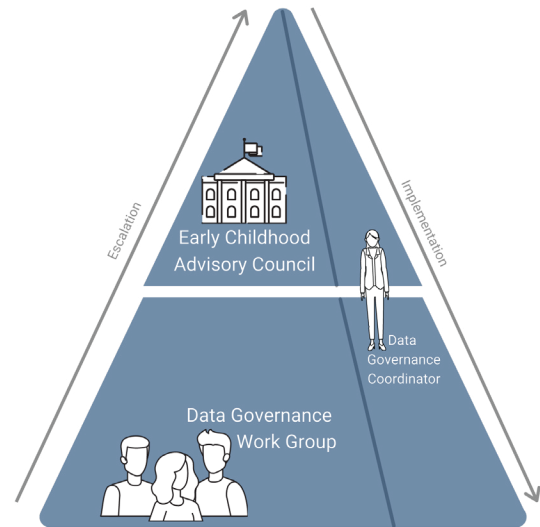
## DATA GOVERNANCE

Data Governance is an organizational process and structure. It is the framework for establishing strategy, policies, and processes for shared data.

The South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) serves as the governing body for the SC ECIDS and the venue for collective decision making for the ECIDS Data Governance.

A Data Governance Coordinator is housed at the ECAC to facilitate Data Governance for the SC ECIDS. For questions, please contact [Justina Siuba](#), Data Governance Coordinator.

The Data Governance Work Group develops recommendations to the ECAC for their consideration to ensure that SC ECIDS is aligned, coordinated, and family centered and to operationalize data governance.



## TIMELINE

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Beyond 2024
Plan						
Design						
Launch						
Maintain & Enhance						

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

### South Carolina Early Learning Extension (ELE)

The ELE will be able to answer key questions about children while they were enrolled in early childhood care and education programs and link those experiences with K-12 outcomes. The technical lead on the ELE is the South Carolina Department of Education.

This is funded by the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program, Grant Number R372A200048, from the U.S. Department of Education through February 2024.

### Enhanced SC Profile

An enhanced SC Profile will be built for early childhood data, including new data inputs into the SC Integrated Data System and leverage existing data inputs for evidence-based decision-making. The technical lead on this initiative is the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

This is funded by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through April 2023.

The SC ECIDS will continue to grow and expand as new data become available and new initiatives emerge.