



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

December 2, 2022, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street, 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 October 20, 2022
Attachment: October 20, 2022 Minutes

- III. Presentation from Child Trends (Dr. Chelsea Richard)

- IV. Updates and Annual Report (Georgia Mjartan)
 - a. **Attachment:** First Five SC December ECAC Report
 - b. **Attachment:** ICC Recap November 2022
 - c. **Attachment:** ECAC December Report

- V. Adjourn (David Morley)
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

October 20, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Draft Minutes

Members Present (12):

Rep. Paula Calhoon
Rep. Jerry Govan
John Hayes
Tim Holt
Mike Leach
Jessica Mackey
Jennifer McConnell
Janie Neeley
Roger Pryor

Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams

Members Absent (11):

Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Dr. Michelle Fry

Sen. Greg Hembree
Robert Kerr
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Dr. David Mathis
Dave Morley, Chairman
Alexia Newman
Nicole Wynkoop

Attendees (63)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Abby Duggins
Alexis Pipkins
Amanda Bailey
Ashlea Hatcher
Betty Washington
Blaine Van Dyke
Carletta Isreal
Chelsea Richard
Chastine Dickey-Jackson
Cindy Ellis
Cindy Galloway
Crystal Campbell
Delores Rock
Dione Ashley
Dorian Young
Dwana Doctor
Felicia Battle
Felica Patrick
Janice Kilburn
Jennifer Williams
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Justina Siuba
Kate Roach

Kenna Hoover
Kim Trudell
Kristine Jenkins
LaMyra Sanders
Lis Guimaraes
Monique Branagan
Nekim Clinton
Patricia Hall
Shakira Fulton
Sharon Bruton
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
SheKiah Reese
Sherry Gilliam
Stacy Greenwalt
Tiffany Outlaw
Tricia Gordon
Valencia Johnson
Beth Moore
Kaitlyn Richards
Martha Strickland
Derek Cromwell
Mark Barnes
Karen Oliver
Tom Lacas
Jessica Garrett

Rhina Medina
Betty Gardiner
Kerry Cordan
Kathy Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Dudek
Howard Morrison
B. Van Dyne
Kathy Jenkins
Kathy Sanders
Lexi Jones
Rachal Hatton-Moore



Ms. McConnell called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Dr. Williams provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes. Dr. Williams provided the motion. Rep. Govan provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Hatton-Moore provided an update on the Family Voice Council. Ms. Karina Esaw, a founding member of the Family Voice Council, shared her thoughts on the service of the ECAC's Family Voice Council and her experience.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on the usage of the First Five SC website. Mr. Lacas of 37 Gears provided a live demonstration of the First Five website.

Mr. Leach provided an update on the federal stimulus funding and child care activities.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and shared the milestones that have been accomplished with the work of the SC Birth through Five Plan.

Ms. Mjartan provided a report on the activities of the ECAC. She shared an updated on the Preschool Development Grant application. Ms. Mjartan provided information on the SC Summit on Early Childhood and the December ECAC meeting.

Ms. McConnell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Holt provided the motion. Mr. Hayes seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. McConnell at 4:04 p.m.



South Carolina
**Early Childhood
 Advisory Council**



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

1. Officially launched February 17, 2022. A login system for programs to collect information for eligible families/leads was launched March 30, 2022.
2. Common application development is underway, with demo available at October 20, 2022 meeting. Stakeholder meetings were held October 25-27, 2022, and testing will be in November and December 2022.

Portal Analytics

February 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022

Unique Visitors—68,081

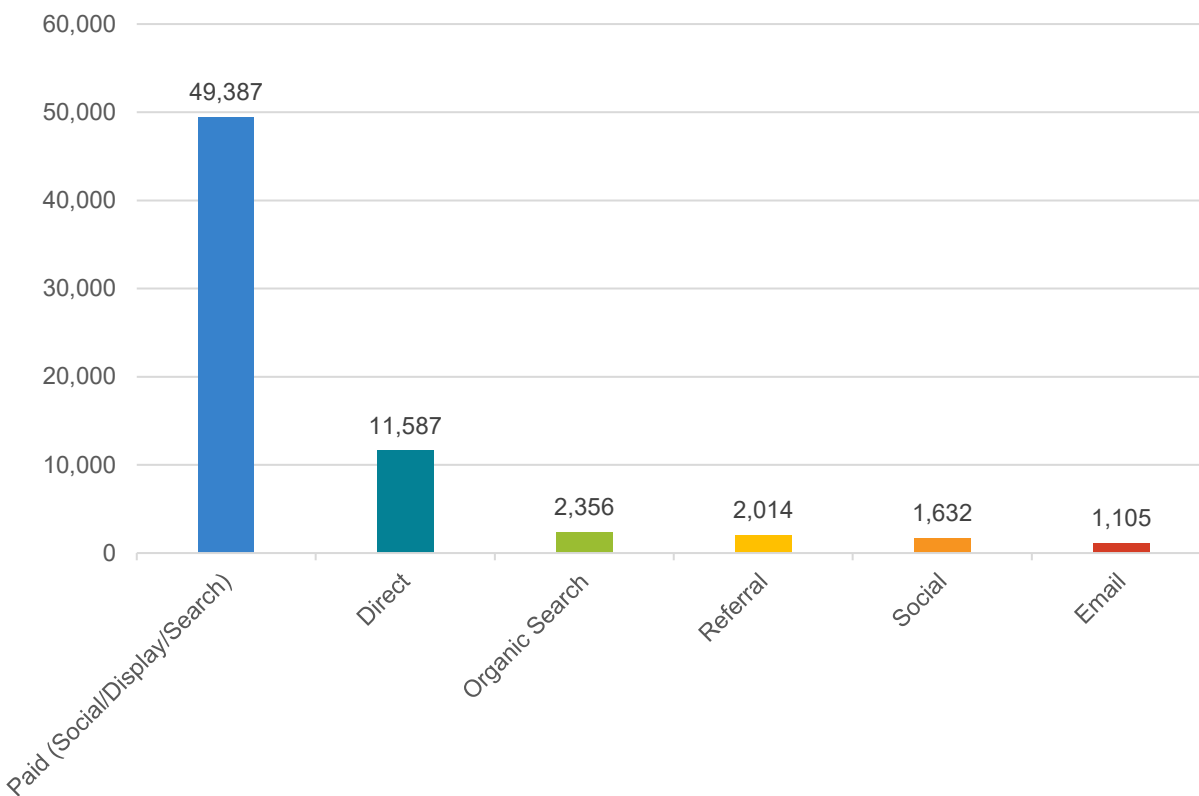
Unique Leads—*6025

Pageviews—160,058

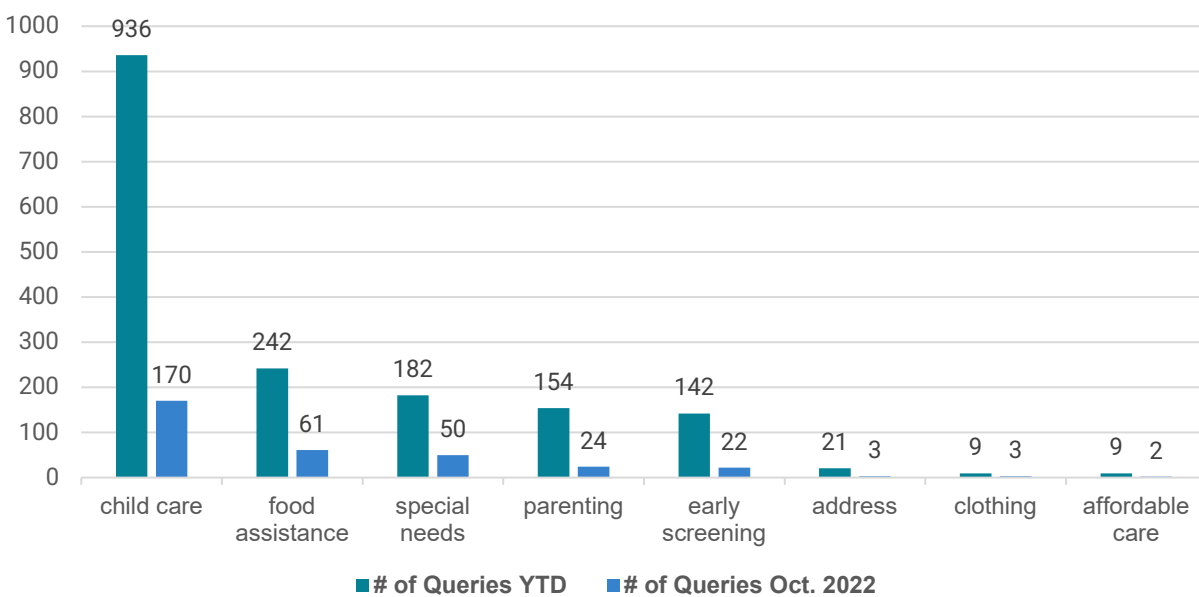
| Month | # unique visitors | # unique families that completed the eligibility screener | # families eligible for at least 1 program (leads) |
|--------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Feb | 7,098 | 695 | 562 |
| Mar | 5,718 | 743 | 627 |
| Apr | 3,386 | 255 | 215 |
| May | 5,904 | 371 | 309 |
| 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 |
| Total | 68,081 | 6,443 | 4,126 |

**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.*

New Users By Traffic Acquisition Channel February 1 - October 31, 2022



Top Search Queries October 2022 vs. February - October 2022





**Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
November 1, 2022**

Present: Leesa Aiken, State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Solandra Bowman, SC Educational Television; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Absent: ICC Chair, David Mathis, Department of Education; Debbie Blalock, SC DMH; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education

Guests: Abbey Duggins, Department of Education; Ania Ellison Prter, Department of Mental Health

Staff: Laura Baker, 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.

Birth through Five Plan: Next Steps

Karen Oliver discussed updates to the Birth Through Five Plan Status Report. A simple draft was shared with ICC participants. The draft follows this recap. Discussion centered around selection of "wins," the BIG headlines that we might share with key stakeholders about our work.

- Dr. Traxler will obtain updated WIC information.
- Ms. Gillum will share language about significant wins in the area of child care.

Other wins the ICC will likely list include

- Extension of Medicaid services to 12 months for post partum mothers
- Launch of First Five (including data relating to its reach and the percent eligible for at least one program

There was discussion about increased investments in parenting and home visiting programs.

In order to present a draft for ECAC's consideration in February, the ICC will need to finalize selection of "wins" and determine milestones that will track progress toward Birth through Five Plan measures of success. The ICC will meet in person in January, on a Friday or Monday, to engage in this work.

Issue Briefs

Kaitlyn Richards brainstormed with ICC about the development of issue briefs. The briefs would provide information in response to trending early childhood issues of state wide importance. Potential topics discussed included early childhood and infant mental health and the state pre-K landscape. There was also discussion about what should be included in the briefs, including the following suggestions: any collaborative, inter-agency work currently being done, agency contacts, and a "call to action" that directly connects to the objectives found within the Birth Through Five Plan.

A draft issue brief will be presented for review at the ICC meeting in January.

ICC Collaboration Opportunities and Updates

DSS launched portal for (child care) vouchers end of October.

DMH is offering professional development, capacity building for clinicians. 25 open slots

DHEC completed data walk for state health needs assessment; the state health plan is in development

Children's Trust waiting for MIECHV reauthorization.

State Library completed review process by Legislative Oversight Committee

Upcoming ICC Meetings

ICC will meet in person in January. A poll will be sent to ICC membership to determine best dates and times to meet.

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM

DRAFT

Birth through Five Plan Status Report:

Report outline: 8-12 pages

The report generally will be organized in 4 parts

- Intro and context

- Wins (combined across all goals)

- Measures to Monitor

- Appendices (Tables of Achievements; data updates)

Brief introduction

Why we 're presenting the report

The Birth through Five Plan Status Report is important for two reasons. First, individual agencies complete a variety of reports for a range of audiences (legislative reports, grant reports, etc.), but this might be the first time a group has jointly created a compendium of achievements that document progress toward achieving outcomes for young children and their families.

Second, and perhaps most significant, the status report represents the shared agreement, accountability, and responsibility of ECAC and its partners to implement the Birth through Five Plan

WINS- These are the BIG headlines that we might share with key stakeholders about our work

Each win will include- WIN STATEMENT (see bullets on next page)

and a couple of sentences about WHY this matters, how it will help young children and families and/or how it will improve efficiency or effectiveness as a system.

Select 5-7? No more than 10

Criteria for Selection

- Achieved in the last 12 -15 months

- Statewide impact

- Affects a significant percentage of population

- Significant process improvement that results in efficiencies and effectiveness (preferably for end users (i.e. parents))

DRAFT

Wins suggested by workgroups

- Medicaid extends postpartum care 12 months in April
- October declared Safe Sleep Month by Governor McMaster
- (WIC) Breastfeeding initiation increases to 23.1% as of July, 2022, exceeding 22% goal (SC WIC System participants in system)
- First Five SC Launched - # using screener/% eligible, first phase common application
- More families have access to affordable child care and quality early care and education
 - through expansion of vouchers (for example Covid 300; essential vouchers, 4K+, then braiding of vouchers with other programs like Head Start and Early Head Start)
 - Statewide expansion of CERDEP
 - What number of families now have access?
- More childcare is available to families; licensed childcare providers increased by 4% from 2021 to 2022
 - 61% of those providers participate in a quality rating program, an increase in 10 percentage points from the year before (This bullet pending approval from DSS)
- Drive to Five Dashboard launched

Below are wins suggested during workgroup meetings but do not meet selection criteria

Increases in Evidence-based parenting resources through PDG, ESSER, philanthropy

Help Me Grow more than doubles presence in counties, from 12-27 -Does not meet criteria

Partners for Early Attuned Relationships (PEAR) network in 26 counties, impacting 1498 infants and toddlers

Safe Baby Court

Palmetto PreK Transitions Workgroup creates statewide plan and disseminates 12,000 packets to parents of children entering Kindergarten

Children's Trust Parenting Coordinator hired- new position to deepen and expand parent leadership across state

Head Starts sharing data with RFA

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Milestones to Monitor

Below are milestones proposed by workgroups. They are significant, but mostly related to process. ICC may want to choose some from the list, and also add milestones that are differently measurable and more closely related to measures listed in B5 Plan. Like Wins, milestones should be presented simply, with some additional sentences that explain why these milestones matter.

1. WIC is integrated into early childhood data system (ECIDS RFA)
2. Central registry for child development screenings is organized (led by Child Well-being Coalition)
3. Post-partum Bundle in birthing hospitals
4. MIECHV reauthorization
5. Increase participation in four year old kindergarten
6. Family Care standards will be updated through Fall 2023
 - a. Increasing from three to five levels of quality, providing increased incentive to participate in subsidy and QRIS programs
7. Integration of Division of Early Care and Education Workforce Registry (SC Endeavors) includes program data of programs in child care licensing and QRIS and provides parental choice (SC-Child Care Resource and Referral) that results improved information for parents about “real time” availability and goodness of fit at child care sites and efficiency for workforce, reducing administrative burden for child care providers
8. Policy work on suspension and expulsion

Next Steps for Milestones

Set criteria for selection

To the degree possible and appropriate, make milestones SMART

THEMES?

Are there any themes we should touch on as a group? The importance of capacity/workforce among not only providers but also in state organizations working to deliver and support services?

Appendices

1. Data Updates
2. Tables of Accomplishments



Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council For December 2, 2022

SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- Search for new Data Governance Coordinator is underway
- Current initiatives of the SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System in progress
 - Early Learning Extension of the K-12 Statewide Longitudinal Data System
 - Technical aspects led by Department of Education and Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
 - Funding via Department of Education from US Department of Education
 - Participating programs
 - First Steps (local partnerships and 4K)
 - Department of Education CERDEP 4K
 - Head Start
 - DSS Child Care Voucher
 - 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
 - Technical aspects led by Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
 - Funding via Department of Social Services from US Administration for Children and Families (Preschool Development Grant)
 - Participating programs
 - Department of Education (CERDEP 4K and IDEA Part B 619)
 - First Steps (local partnerships and 4K)
 - Head Start
 - Help Me Grow
 - IDEA Part C (Department of Disabilities and Special Needs)
 - Medicaid (Department of Health and Human Services)
 - ParentChild+
 - SC Thrive
 - School for the Deaf and Blind
 - WIC (Department of Health and Environmental Control)



- Goals
 - Integrate early childhood data using RFA's algorithm
 - Visualize and report data to answer key questions

First Five SC

1. See First Five Report
2. First Five SC had a booth at the S.C. State Fair. Representatives from each agency of the ECAC filled 47 3-hour shifts.
3. Stories from caregivers of young children were collected to share on First5SC.org.

Palmetto Pre-K (portal address: www.PalmettoPrek.org)

Feb. 1, 2020 – Oct. 31, 2022

Unique website visitors: 141,615

Total leads: 20,210

Eligible for at least one program: 16,520

Head Start eligible: 8,277

First Steps 4K eligible: 5,330

Public school eligible: 7,849

SC DSS voucher eligible: 2,885

Transitions

The workgroup continues to meet to implement tactics that support transition activities:

- a. Subgroups continue to meet to refine transitions toolkits for draft completion December 2022.
- b. Focus group information will be used to support the work of Countdown to Kindergarten, transitions in general, and the development of the toolkits.
 - i. First focus group piloted at Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree.
 - ii. A focus group was held at the SCAEYC conference on October 14.
 - iii. Four additional focus groups are scheduled for December.

Family Voice Council (FVC)

1. “A Year of Family Voice” report, published October 20, 2022, was included in the Parents as Teachers National Center Newsletter on November 7, 2022.
2. 20 parents now represent the Family Voice Council; three applications are held for possible openings in winter 2023.
 - a. Recruitment continues for seats opening in Winter/Spring 2023.
3. FVC meetings
 - a. October meeting: Michelle Myer, Director of the Division of Children’s Health and Perinatal Services, SC DHEC presented
 - b. November meeting:
 - i. Follow-up about SC Early Learning Extension
 - ii. First Five SC Common Application to secure feedback prior to deployment.
 - c. FVC will be attend the Summit on Early Childhood and host a Family Voice studio session.

Grants

1. Preschool Development Grant (PDG)

ACF released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a new planning grant. This planning grant could provide a path for another round of multi-year renewal funding.

 - a. SC submitted its application November 4. DSS agreed to serve as lead; DSS is the lead for the current PDG grant.
 - b. SC is one of 24 eligible applicants for this grant. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the grant administrator, expects to make 10 awards ranging from \$400,000 to \$4,000,000.
2. Alliance for Early Success

The ECAC continues its relationship with Alliance for Early Success. Georgia Mjartan, Kaitlyn Richards and Beth Moore attended an in-person conference in November.