



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

April 21, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps

Minutes

Members Present (15):

Dave Morley, Chair	Jesica Mackey
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair	David Mathis
Rep. Paula Calhoon	Jennifer McConnell
Mary Lynne Diggs	Roger Pryor
Rep. Jerry Govan	Dr. Edward Simmer
John Hayes	Sue Williams
Tim Holt	Amy Williams
Mike Leach	

Members Absent (8):

Jacque Curtin
Michelle Fry
Sen. Greg Hembree
Robert Kerr
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Janie Neeley
Alexia Newman
Nicole Wynkoop

Attendees (13)

Georgia Mjartan	Lexi Jones	Kathy Fitzgerald
Avian Jones	Justina Siuba	Lis Guimaraes
Jon Artz	Chelsea Richard	Beth Moore
Derek Cromwell	Karen Oliver	
Tom Lacas	Rachal Hatton	

Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 3:53 p.m.

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

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the February 17, 2022 minutes. Dr. Canright provided the motion. Rep. Calhoon provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the recommended revisions to the Data Governance Charter for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) developed by the Early Learning Extension Data Governance Work Group. Dr. Canright provided the motion, Dr. Simmer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Leach provided an update on the federal stimulus funding and child care activities. South Carolina has received four supplemental federal child care grants related to COVID-19, totaling \$954,645,289. As of 4/19/22, we have spent or obligated more than \$400 million and our staff continue to work very hard to make sure we are meeting as many of the needs as we can and fulfilling our responsibility as stewards of public funds by being thoughtful and deliberate about implementing the items in the spending plan. At this point we believe we are on track to spend the funds within the timeframes outlined in the federal rules. On December 7, 2021, DSS launched the initial round of Child Care Stabilization Grants to qualified child care providers. In South Carolina, these stabilizations grants are called "SC Building Blocks". As of 4/19/22, 1,660 child care providers



have submitted a Stabilization Grant application (82% of potentially eligible). 1,567 applications have been approved, totaling \$191,590,323 for the 12-month grant period. DSS is getting ready to launch a second round of Child Care Stabilization Grants in mid-May. As with the original round, we will be communicating with providers as early as possible and offering virtual town halls and “office hours” to assist them in taking advantage of this funding opportunity. On October 16, 2020, DSS began offering child care assistance (vouchers) for working parents. In order to qualify, parent income must be at or below 300% FPL, and be working at least 15 hours a week or in school or training program. This category of child care is being provided for up to 52 weeks from the point of approval. Child care providers must be enrolled in ABC Quality to receive vouchers for eligible children. As of 4/19/22, 26,595 children have been approved for SC Child Care COVID-300 Vouchers and placed in a slot. Approximately \$317 million has been allocated for these vouchers.

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and shared that the SC Birth through Five plan is being worked on and milestones are being set through the committee to include the approval of data sharing.

Ms. Hatton shared an update from the Palmetto Pre-K Transitions Workgroup. They will be providing transitions toolkits for parents and creating focus groups with educators. Ms. Mjartan shared First5 SC had over 12,000 visitors in the first six weeks since the website launched.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mackey provided the motion. Dr. Mathis provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 4:23 p.m.