



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

April 18, 2024, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Minutes

Council Members Present (14):

Dr. Robert Bank	Dorothy Priester	Rep. Shannon Erickson
Jacque Curtin	Roger Pryor	Constance Holloway
Dr. Matthew Ferguson	Dr. Ed Simmer	Robert Kerr
John Hayes	Sue Williams	Jesica Mackey
Sen. Greg Hembree	Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair	Sen. Gerald Malloy
Mike Leach		Janie Neeley
David Lisk		Mary Anne Scott
Jack McBride		Wes Wooten
Dave Morley, Chairman		Dr. Brenda Williams

Council Members Absent (11)

Rep Terry Alexander
Mary Lynne Diggs

Attendees (45)

Georgia Mjartan	Kenna Hoover
Avian Jones	Kenya Johnson
Alissa Durham	Kim Trudell
Amanda Bailey	Kristen Martocchio
Amber Gillum	Kristine Jenkins
Beth Moore	LaMyra Sanders
Betty Gardiner	Lexi Jones
Brandie Maness	Lis Guimaraes
Bridget Banner	Mark Barnes
Brittany Buckner	Martha Strickland
Catherine Nolan	Mary Laney
Chelsea Richard	Rachal Hatton Moore
Cindy Ellis	Sarah Crawford
Cindy Galloway	Sarah Lewis
Derek Cromwell	Shayla Pettigrew
Gina Beebe	Tamatha Kohler
Imagen Kinard	Tiffany Outlaw
Jackson Wilkens	Carletta Isreal
Jennifer Kelly	Clarissa Jones- Edwards
Jennifer Williams	
Julie Greer	
Joy Mazur	
Kaitlyn Richards	
Kate Roach	
Kathy Fitzgerald	
Katrina Cummings	



The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

Sen. Hembree provided the motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Dr. Ferguson, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Simmer provided a motion to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes, seconded by Dr. A. Williams, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Richard provided context and engaged in discussion about the proposed data governance decision-making policy. Dr. Williams provided a motion to approve the Data Governance Related Decision-Making Policy, seconded by Mr. Lisk, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Leach shared that DSS has a childcare fund development plan due to the federal government and that they are continuing their work on the PDG grant. He shared that the federal government passed a new final rule for CCDF where they have a few things to work through. He stated that with the current post-Covid spend rate of CCDF funding the agency would likely be in a deficit of those funds by 2027. DSS is in the process of conducting a market rate survey to implement a cost of care model.

Dr. Ferguson shared that the Department of Education currently has 15,000 students in public school 4K CERDEP across the state and would like to add 60 classrooms and 1,200 students for next year. There are currently 9,000 K – 3 teachers and administrations that have started their LETRS training in the science of reading and they are looking to add an additional 10,000 K – 3 teachers and administrators for the next school year.

Ms. Williams provided information regarding McVeigh formula funding for early childhood home visiting programs. Children's Trust has asked for \$250,000 from the state to receive \$750,000 in match from the federal government to further their work and explore other home visiting models that have been working. She also shared information on what Children's Trust is doing with the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention funding that they receive.

Ms. Gillum reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and their progress on the SC Birth Through Five Plan measures. She stated that they are in the process of reviewing the needs assessment and data points.

Ms. Mjartan reported on the activities of the ECAC. She invited the members of the ECAC to participate in the inaugural ECAC Community Listening Discussion that is designed to foster increased engagement and efforts of community leaders to uplift family and provider voices within communities. She provided an update on Palmetto PreK and First Five SC.

Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sen. Hembree, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.