



Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council

December 4, 2020, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99827298279?pwd=T0FQWlhGcmR1WHlMY3pFN20zRVJwQT09>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted.

- II. Approve October 22, 2020 Minutes (David Morley)
Attachments: October 22, 2020 Minutes
Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting.

- III. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (Dr. David Mathis)
Attachments: Interagency Collaboration Committee Report and Minutes

- IV. ECAC Report on Activities (Georgia Mjartan)

- V. Adjourn
Motion: To adjourn the meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council



Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

October 22, 2020, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99827298279?pwd=T0FQWlhGcmR1WHlMY3pFN20zRVJwQT09>

Draft Minutes

Members Present (11):

Dave Morley, Chair
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Tim Holt
Marshall Taylor
Michael Leach
Dr. David Mathis
Sen. Greg Hembree
Dr. Amy Williams
Julie Hussey

Mary Poole
Jennifer McConnell

Members Absent (10):

Mary Lynne Diggs
Sen. Gerald Malloy
Rep. Rita Allison
Rep. Jerry Govan
Joshua Baker
Angel Johnson-Brebner

Sue Williams
Walter Fleming
Alexia Newman
Roger Pryor, Jr.

Others Present (52):

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Zack Catoe
Samantha Ingram
Angela Pruitt
Anna Workman
Annie Cherry
Barbara Scott
Beth Moore
Betty Gardiner
Carla Brown
Carletta Isreal
Chelsea Richard
Cindy Ellis
Cindy Galloway
Cindy Riley
Debbie Robertson
Delores Rock
Derek Lewis
Dione Brabham
Gina Beebe
Janice Kilburn

Jenn Adams
Jennifer Williams
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kim Chariker
Kristine Jenkins
Laura Baker
Lavinia Tejada
Mark Barnes
Martha Strickland
Micah Rea
Nancy Ziobro
Reggie Earle
Rosemary Patterson
Sarah Crawford
Sharon Bruton
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornell
SheKiah Reese
Suzanne McGougan
Tierra Thomas
Tiffany Outlaw

Valencia Johnson
Veronica Davis
Michael Gaskin
Derek Lewis
Victoria Warner
Anna Workman
Candi Lalonde
Betty Washington



Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 2:57 p.m.

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

Mr. Morley provided a motion to approve the August 20, 2020 minutes. Dr. Mathis provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on Palmetto Pre-K and the increase in school districts that have chosen to be included in the Palmetto Pre-K portal.

Dr. Mathis shared information on new partnerships and grant opportunities.

Ms. Mjartan informed everyone that the procurement for the First Five South Carolina project is underway.

Ms. Mjartan shared vacant staff positions within the ECAC and provided an update on the Build It Back Better Survey and the agency's participation in the Early Childhood Business Collaboratory.

Ms. Mjartan discussed the SC Early Childhood State Strategic Plan and the need to form workgroups that will include members of the board to achieve the vision and system goals.

Mr. Morley provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sen. Hembree provided a second and the motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 3:17 p.m.



To: Early Childhood Advisory Council
From: Dr. David Mathis, Chair, Interagency Collaboration Committee
Date: December 4, 2020

RE: Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee

The Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) held its regular bi-monthly meeting on November 6, 2020.

Chair Mathis opened the meeting with the announcement of new member Dr. Brannon Traxler, Interim Director of Public Health at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The primary focus of the meeting was the launch of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Grant work. Invited guests included key leaders in this work from the SC Department of Education, which is the grantee, the SC Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs and SC First Steps. The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) will hire a coordinator for the SLDS who will be housed at SC First Steps for the duration of the four-year grant under the supervision of Chelsea Richard, who is the agency's Strategic Impact Director. This coordinator will convene a data governance committee, data experts chosen by their individual agency leadership, to perform the core work of developing the new statewide data system.

SLDS Grant leadership has begun researching models and systems in other states and current systems within our own state which will provide the groundwork for the data governance committee. As committee chair I have charged the Interagency Collaboration Committee to carefully consider what it is they want to know now, what they want to learn from our collective data in five years and who is the best person at their agency to participate on the data governance committee.

Both the SLDS Coordinator and the 2 Generation Coordinator on the ECAC are expected to be in place by the end of the year. One AmeriCorps Member for Community Outreach and Education has been hired and there is an opening for one more. The search for a new ECAC Program Manager is currently underway.

During the agency networking portion of the meeting an important milestone for the Palmetto Pre-K portal was noted. In an effort to ensure that parents can find all of the opportunities available for publicly funded PreK for their 3- and 4- year old children, the site is expanding to include non-CERDEP classrooms in public schools. This expansion required reaching out to the district superintendents to inform them of the need, the advantage, and the ease of being included on the portal. As of this date we are pleased to report that only a single district has decided against participating in Palmetto Pre-K. Expanding the portal to include these classrooms greatly increases the available options for parents and will help to ensure that a maximum number of slots are filled which is more important for our children and families now than ever before.

The next meeting of the Interagency Collaboration Committee is set for January 5, 2021 via Zoom.



**Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
November 6, 2020**

Present: David Mathis, Department of Education; Jennifer Buster, Department of Health and Human Services; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services; Louise Johnson, Department of Mental Health; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Georgia Mjartan, First Steps; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Mary Lynne Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office; Stephanie Frazier, SC Educational Television

Absent: Leesa Aiken, SC State Library; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Guests: Mike Leach, Director, Department of Social Services; Kristie Bader, Jeff Henry, Daniel Ralyea and Adriana Vidal, Department of Education; Chelsea Richard, First Steps; Sarah Crawford, Sheila Cornwell, Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

Staff: Cassie Barber and Laura Baker, ECAC/SC First Steps

David Mathis convened the meeting via Zoom and announced the committee's newest member Dr. Brannon Traxler, Interim Director of Public Health at the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. Cassie Barber met with Dr. Traxler for a brief orientation during which Brannon expressed excitement about the work of the committee. Her schedule did not permit attendance at this meeting, but she is looking forward to joining the committee in January.

A variety of guests who are key players in the work of the Statewide Longitudinal Grant joined the ICC for a presentation on the current status of the grant work. David began the SLDS presentation noting that data will help us construct the best foundation to launch our early learners and posed two questions: 1) What do we want to know now? and 2) In five years, what will we know?

Chelsea Richard explained the purpose of the SLDS system noting that SDE is the grantee and all associated agencies will have a seat at the table. The program will build collaborative agency partnerships and the infrastructure for further development. Currently, the K-12 system SC Profile is updated every six months and SLDS hopes to evolve the system to be updated in real time. Chelsea noted that the data obtained through this grant work can help ensure that children are enrolled in the right programs at the right time – B-5 input measures will equal outcome improvements. It will also prevent duplication of services. SLDS could answer key questions on how various early childhood programs are affecting the state's children.

Before the end of the year, the ECAC will hire a project coordinator who will oversee the project on behalf of the ECAC and that person will convene the data governance committee. Sheila Cornwell from RFA is doing prep-work by looking at other models and data oversight systems. One of the roles of the SLDS committee will be to determine what information will be made publicly available via a data dashboard.

Many expressed enthusiasm about the new system and engaged in a robust discussion of the new system's value. Chelsea will connect with the committee about next steps. Committee members are encouraged to send questions to Cassie. David Mathis concluded the discussion by asking leadership to carefully consider what data their agencies can share and what they want to learn, keeping his two initial questions in mind.

Georgia Mjartan shared news about the recently awarded Listen 4 Good grant which will provide training and technical assistance to assist SC First Steps and the ECAC to obtain feedback regarding our constituents' satisfaction with, and ideas about, how we might improve programs and service delivery. It is especially exciting as Listen4Good is now expanding their work which began with nonprofits into the public sector. The ECAC will be able to participate in the program beginning in early 2022. Chelsea Richard will lead this effort and the ECAC's soon-to-be-hired 2 Generation Coordinator's work to convene a Family Voice Council dovetails perfectly with the Listen4Good grant.

Georgia announced a plan to obtain an outside facilitator to assist in the development of a high level, statewide early childhood strategic plan. Cassie has developed a draft that includes the key objectives included in the Preschool Development Grant strategic plan which is focused on early childhood care and education. The expanded ECAC plan will reflect the objectives of all associated agencies in support of the ECAC goals to ensure that 1) children arrive at school ready to learn, 2) children are healthy and safe, and 3) children will be supported by their families and communities. The plan will also include a fourth goal focused on system alignment and collaboration. In the coming months, committee members will be asked to serve on work groups to complete the strategic plan with a goal of presenting a plan to the ECAC in April.

Cassie discussed current job openings at the ECAC including her own position since she will be retiring February 1. David expressed congratulations and remarked on their many years of collaborative work together in public education. Both the SLDS and 2 Generation Coordinator positions should be filled by year end. One AmeriCorps position has been filled and there is an opening for one more. Members are asked to share this information with their networks.

During the agency updates and networking portion of the meeting David and Georgia shared information about the expansion of Palmetto Pre-K into non-CERDEP school districts which would allow parents to see all publicly funded preschool opportunities. David met with district superintendents to encourage them to participate and nearly all have done so.

Georgia shared that the scope for First Five SC has been posted and dozens of potential vendors have applied for the opportunity to develop the site. Bids will open in December and work is expected to be underway by early April.

- Mary Lynne Diggs shared that Head Start is participating in the DSS Foster/Adoption Challenge.
- Georgia remarked on the collaboration efforts of First Steps, the Department of Education, DHEC and DSS to distribute thousands of masks to home visitors and local partnership programs.
- David shared the need for social/emotional support for families in during the pandemic. SDE has received the US Department of Education's grant Rethink K-12 Education which will focus resources on early learners to lay a solid foundation.
- Eric Bellamy reported that the Children's Trust of South Carolina has signed on with the National Family Support Network and Family Resource Centers to create a strategic

plan. The agency will receive training on quality standards and family support. In addition, the state's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program has been re-authorized.

- Louise Johnson shared that the Department of Mental Health is participating in an early learning initiative to work with families with young children to develop early interventions. DMH is also working with Early Head Start centers to support Safe Baby Court to provide young parents charged with abuse with the help they need while their children are temporarily in foster care.

The Interagency Collaboration Committee meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of odd months. Next meeting date: January 5, 2021.