Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
August 18 2022, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting

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 June 16, 2022
    Attachment: June 16, 2022 Minutes

III. SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (Georgia Mjartan)
    Motion: To approve the recommended SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) onboarding process as developed by the Early Learning Extension and Palmetto Drive to Five Data Governance Work Groups (requires motion and second)
    Attachment: Data Partner Onboarding Motion August 2022

IV. First Five SC (www.first5sc.org) Status Report: (Georgia Mjartan)
    Attachment: First Five SC August ECAC Report

V. Presentations and Updates from ECAC Members

VI. Reports
    a. Report from the Interagency Collaboration Committee (David Mathis)
    Attachment: Interagency Collaboration Committee Meeting Recap
    b. ECAC Report on Activities, (Georgia Mjartan)
    Attachments: Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
    SCELE Communication Toolkit August 2022

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

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

June 16, 2022, immediately following the SCFS Board of Trustees Meeting
SC First Steps
Draft Minutes

Members Present (17):
Dave Morley, Chair
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
John Hayes
Tim Holt
Michael Leach
Dr. David Mathis
Jennifer McConnell
Janie Neeley
Alexia Newman
Roger Pryor
Dr. Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams
Nicole Wynkoop

Members Absent (6):
Rep. Paula Calhoon
Dr. Michelle Fry
Rep. Jerry Govan
Sen. Greg Hembree
Robert Kerr
Jesica Mackey

Attendees (71)
Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Laura Baker
Beth Moore
Samantha Ingram
Adrienne Troy Frazier
Alexis Pipkins
Amy Engle
Angelica Jules
Annie Cherry
Ben Gibson
Beth Kienzlen
Betty Gardiner
Betty Washington
Carletta Isreal
Catherine Bender
Cierra Crosby
Chastine Dickey-Jackson
Chelsea Richard
Cindy Ellis
Cindy Galloway
Daby Snipes
Darcy Huffman
Dedra Butler
Derek Cromwell
Dione Brabham
Dorian Young
Duchette Hylton
Dwana Doctor
Felicia Battle
Gina Beebe
Ivory Mitchell
Jabari Clyburn
Jennifer Williams
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Justina Siuba
Karen Oliver
Kate Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kathy Jenkins
Kenna Hoover
Kerri Schnake
Kerry Cordan
Kim Trudell
Kristen Martocchio
Kristine Jenkins
LaMyra Sanders
Lavinia Tejada
Lis Guimaraes
Mark Barnes
Megan Smith
NaToya Cartledge
Pauletta Plowden
Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rick Foster
Rogers Pryor
Rosemarie West
Ryan Shinn
Sarah Eargle
Sharon Bruton
Shayla Pettigrew
Sheila Cornwell
SheKiah Reese
Sherry Adger
Spencer Scott
Stacy Greenwalt
S Woods
Terri Lottchea
Tiffany Outlaw
Valencia Johnson

Mr. Morley called the ECAC meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the amendment to remove Mr. Kerr's presentation from the agenda. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. Neeley provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 minutes. Dr. Williams provided the motion. Mr. Holt provided the second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan provided an update on First5SC, its current usage and marketing plan.

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:
- $63,641,788 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, awarded April 13, 2020 (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- $182,004,760 under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act (CRRSA), awarded February 3, 2021 (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- Two grants under the American Rescue Plan awarded April 15, 2021, totaling $708,998,741.
- $436,582,621 in Child Care Stabilization Funds (must be obligated by 9/30/22 and liquidated by 9/30/23).
- $272,416,120 in Supplemental Discretionary Funds (must be obligated by 9/30/23 and liquidated by 9/30/24).

As of 6/14/22, we have spent or obligated more than $615 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. Under the American Rescue Plan, the state was appropriated $436,582,621 in Child Care Stabilization Funds. 90% of these funds ($392,924,359) must be spent on grants to qualified child care providers. As of 6/14/22, 1,761 child care providers have applied for Round 1 of the SC Building Blocks Grant (87% of potentially eligible). 1,710 applications have been approved, totaling $204,280,025 for the 12-month grant period.   On June 1, 2022, DSS launched a second round of SC Building Blocks grants. As of 6/14/22, 1,287 child care providers have applied for Round 2. 1,283 applications have been approved, totaling $166,445,000.

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 6/14/22, 30,362 children have been approved for SC Child Care COVID-300 Vouchers and placed in a slot. Approximately $357 million has been allocated for these vouchers. In October 2021, DSS also raised voucher rates for providers to help close the gap between the voucher rates and private pay clients. Overall, this means increases in the maximum amount providers are reimbursed.

Dr. Mathis reported on the Interagency Collaboration Committee and shared that they are continuing to work on goals in the SC Birth though Five Plan.

South Carolina
Early Childhood
Advisory Council

Ms. Mjartan provided a report on the activities of the ECAC.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Mathis provided the motion. Ms. McConnell seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

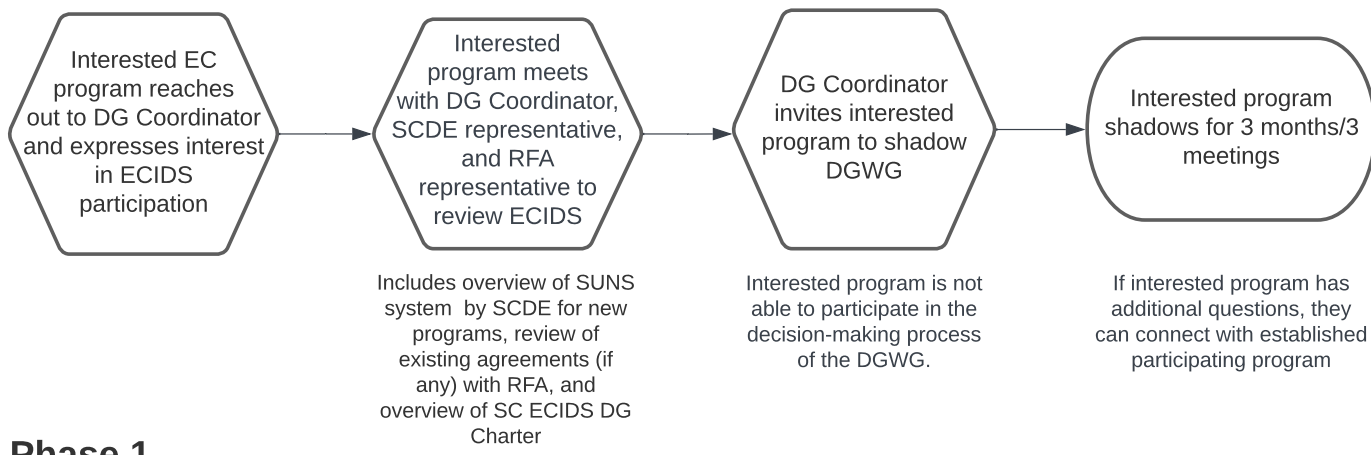The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley at 4:23 p.m.

MOTION
To approve the recommended SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) onboarding process as developed by the Early Learning Extension and Palmetto Drive to Five Data Governance Work Groups.
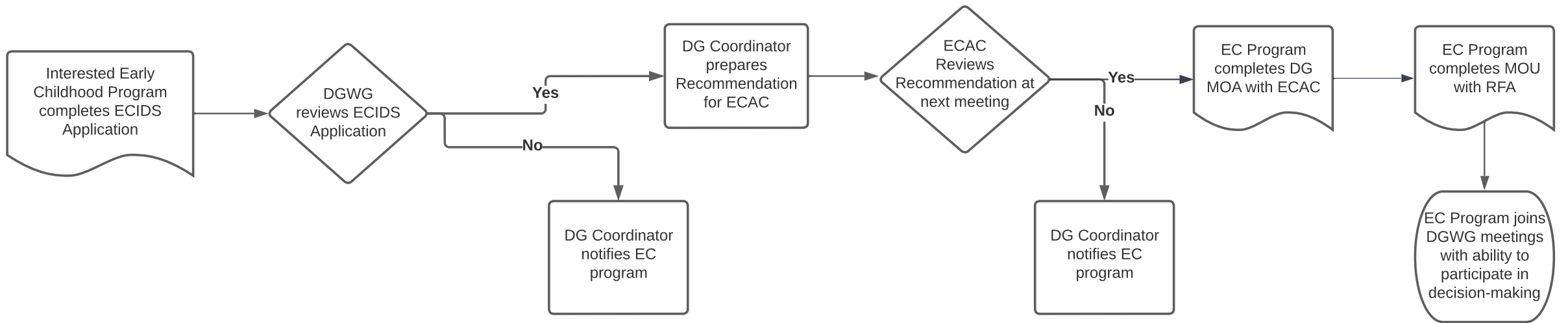
South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System
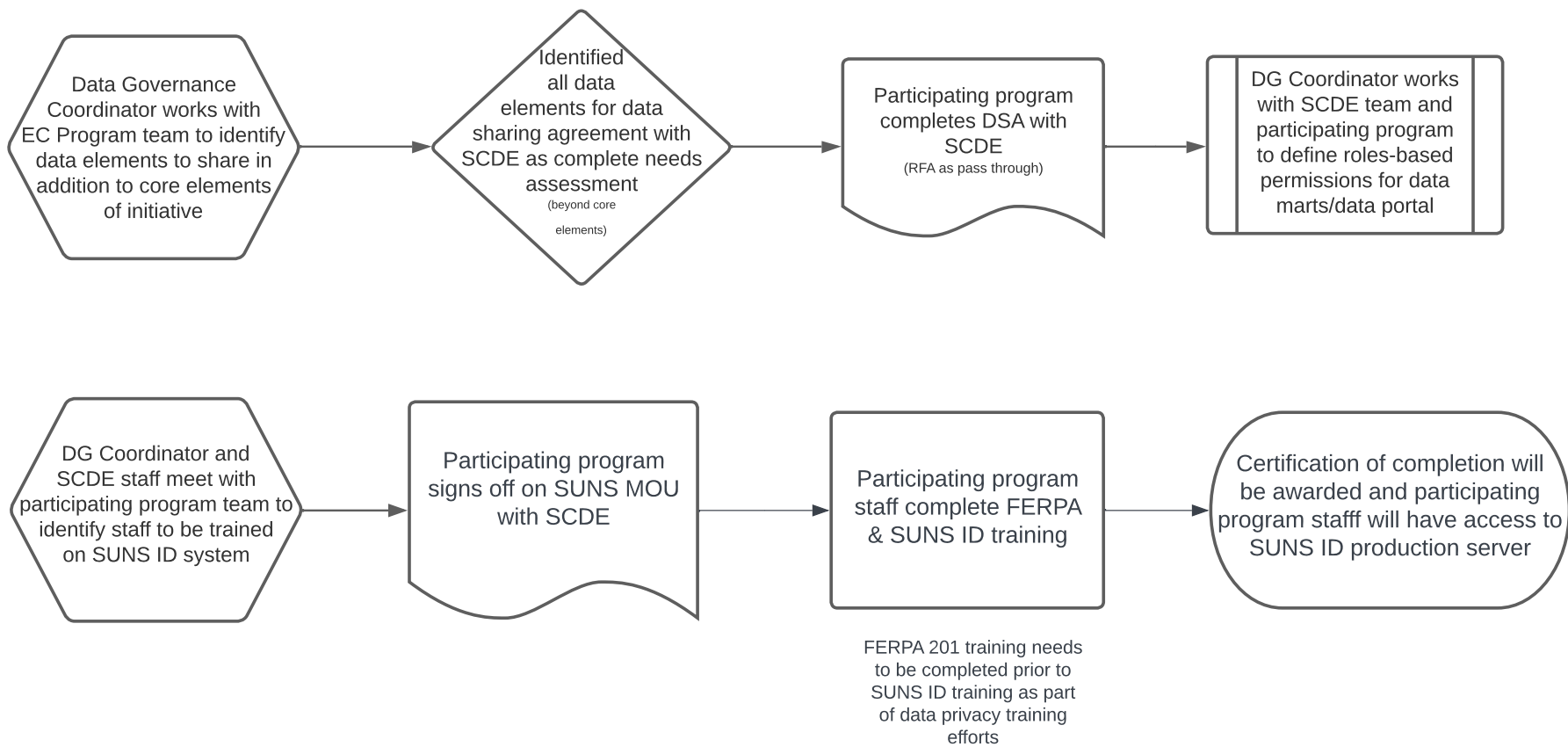
Process displayed on next page.

Prior to Application
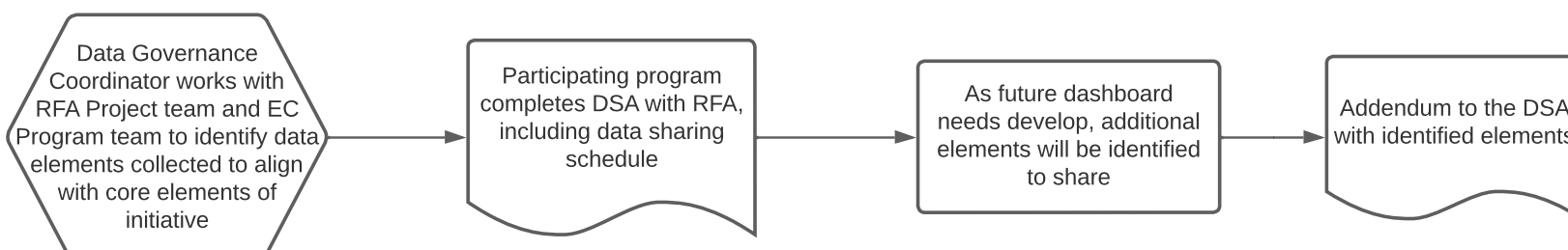
Interested EC program reaches out to DG Coordinator and expresses interest in ECIDS participation → Interested program meets with DG Coordinator, SCDE representative, and RFA representative to review ECIDS → DG Coordinator invites interested program to shadow DGWG → Interested program shadows for 3 months/3 meetings

Includes overview of SUNS system by SCDE for new programs, review of existing agreements (if any) with RFA, and overview of SC ECIDS DG Charter

Interested program is not able to participate in the decision-making process of the DGWG.

If interested program has additional questions, they can connect with established participating program

Phase 1

Interested Early Childhood Program completes ECIDS Application → DGWG reviews ECIDS Application

Yes → DG Coordinator prepares Recommendation for ECAC → ECAC Reviews Recommendation at next meeting → Yes → EC Program completes DG MOA with ECAC → EC Program completes MOU with RFA

No → DG Coordinator notifies EC program

No → DG Coordinator notifies EC program

EC Program joins DGWG meetings with ability to participate in decision-making

Phase 2.1 (ELE)

Data Governance Coordinator works with EC Program team to identify data elements to share in addition to core elements of initiative → Identified all data elements for data sharing agreement with SCDE as complete needs assessment (beyond core elements) → Participating program completes DSA with SCDE (RFA as pass through) → DG Coordinator works with SCDE team and participating program to define roles-based permissions for data marts/data portal

DG Coordinator and SCDE staff meet with participating program team to identify staff to be trained on SUNS ID system → Participating program signs off on SUNS MOU with SCDE → Participating program staff complete FERPA & SUNS ID training → Certification of completion will be awarded and participating program staff will have access to SUNS ID production server

FERPA 201 training needs to be completed prior to SUNS ID training as part of data privacy training efforts

Phase 2.2 (PDt5)

Data Governance Coordinator works with RFA Project team and EC Program team to identify data elements collected to align with core elements of initiative → Participating program completes DSA with RFA, including data sharing schedule → As future dashboard needs develop, additional elements will be identified to share → Addendum to the DSA with identified elements

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.
3. First Five SC was featured on Early Childhood Policy Matters, a production of the national PDG B-5 TA Center: https://soundcloud.com/ecpolicymatters/helping-families-navigate-early-childhood-in-south-carolina

Portal Analytics

February 1, 2022 - July 31, 2022
      Unique Visitors—35,346
      Unique Leads—3,065*
      Pageviews—90,142

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
Total	35,346	3,257	2,720

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.

Traffic Acquisition Channels
February 1 - July 31, 2022

Top Search Queries
July 2022 vs February - July 2022
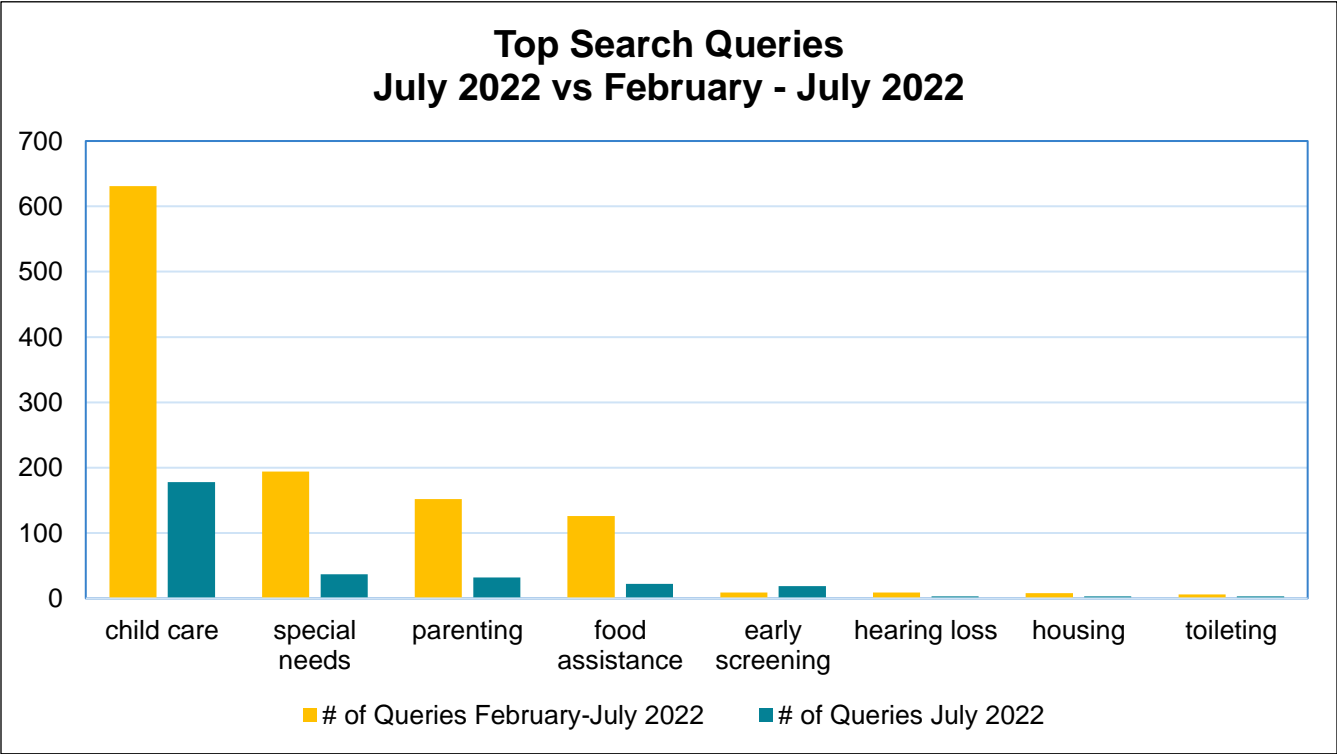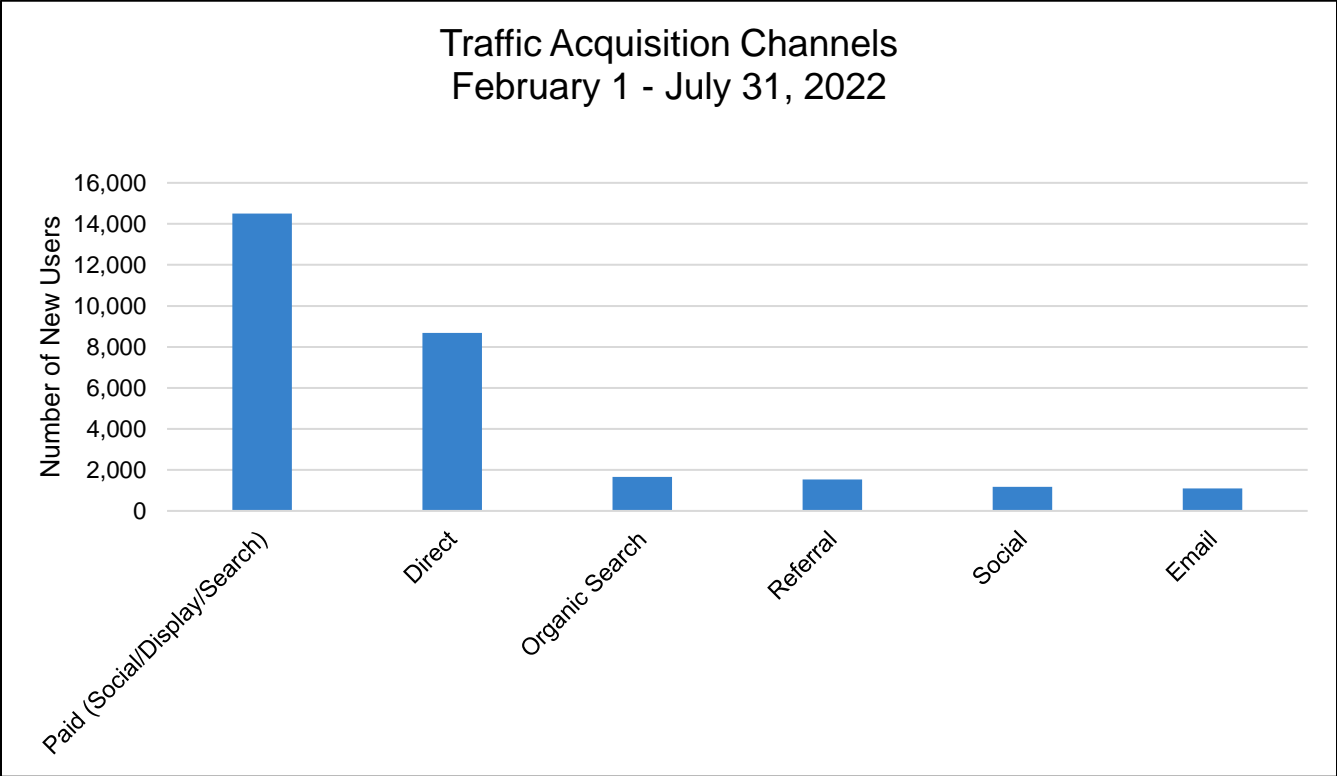
Interagency Collaboration Committee
Meeting Recap
August 2, 2022

Present: Leesa Aiken, State Library; Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust; Debbie Blalock, SC DMH; 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; Joyce Kimrey, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Georgia Mjartan, SC First Steps/ECAC; Rusty Monhollon, Commission on Higher Education; Brannon Traxler, Department of Health and Environmental Control

Absent: ICC Chair, David Mathis, Department of Education; Amber Gillum, Department of Social Services

Staff: Rachal Hatton- Moore, Karen Oliver, Chelsea Richard, Justina Siuba

Call to Order and Welcome
Georgia Mjartan convened the meeting at 1:01 PM. Each ICC member introduced him or herself and identified their representative agency.

Update from SCETV
ICC member, Salandra Bowman from SC ETV, shared an update.

Through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), SCETV created interstitials for Countdown to Kindergarten, showcased SCETV Smart Cat and First Steps Fox, and promoted Bright by Text. SCETV also featured First Five SC in Carolina Classrooms. https://www.scetv.org/watch/carolina-classrooms

During the final year of funding from PDG, SCETV will focus on storytelling at the SC State Fair, SC Summit on Early Childhood, and a spring event. SCETV also will create vignettes about Countdown to Kindergarten and produce radio interstitials.

Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)
Justina Siuba, Data Governance Coordinator for ECAC, presented an update on work to date.

Two data groups are meeting, the PDG Data and the Early Learning Extension of the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS). The groups have both distinct and intersecting interests. The first activities of these groups are to develop data sharing agreements and to determine core elements (data fields) so agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders can answer questions like, what is the unduplicated count of children receiving early childhood services or what percentage of children are enrolled in more than one service or program?

A team from Child Trends has been working to support communication about the SC Early Learning Extension (SCELE). The conducted stakeholder interviews and developed high-level messages about the SCELE. Messages include information that relates to ensuring oversight of the shared data.

First Five SC (www.first5sc.org)
Rachal Hatton-Moore, Two-generation Coordinator, provided a First Five SC update. Each partner agency is able to collect and follow up on "leads" generated by parents completing the online screener. Agency representatives work with Rachal to collect leads from the "backend" of the First Five SC site.

ICC members were asked to share information about First Five SC through their regional offices and other networks. Information can be shared through materials like rack cards, hand cards and posters. ICC members also were encouraged to post a link to First Five in places on their websites, where parent might find and use them. SC DMH, SC DHEC, the State Library and BabyNet representatives committed to sharing information through their offices and networks.

Birth through Five Plan Updates
Georgia Mjartan shared work to date and timelines for reporting status of the Birth through Five Plan(B5). Four B5 goal drafts were circulated to ICC. The process to put the drafts together included working group meetings, individual interviews and scanning reports like those from the Preschool Development Grant (PDG).

The goal drafts are organized to showcase significant achievements (recent wins); to propose implementation milestones- implementation measures and metrics for which the ICC agrees to be accountable; to identify strategic opportunities; and to summarize key work accomplishments achieved individually and together. Key accomplishments are summarized in tables.

The ICC will continue to need input and support from working groups to complete the tables of accomplishments. The tables should be completed by early/mid-October. From the table, the ICC will select Recent Wins- the types of achievements that impact not just individual agencies, but early childhood as a whole. The ICC will need to discuss and agree on which wins to report.

The ECAC agreed to measures of success, but implementation and accountability rests in identifying milestones that document progress toward achieving those measures. The ICC will develop consensus about the milestones, and then present the proposed milestones to ECAC for its consideration. Consensus about milestones should be completed as part ICC work through November.

ICC will present the draft to ECAC at its December meeting. A formatted report will be presented to the public in February, the anniversary of the Birth through Five Plan's presentation to Governor McMaster.

ICC discussed the goal summaries and agreed to the timelines for reporting. ICC will not meet in September but will convene workgroups to complete tables of accomplishments and make suggestions for wins and milestones.

ICC Collaboration Opportunities and Updates
Head Start will be welcoming 10 new directors this fall.

Less than 50% of eligible children are enrolling in pre-K programs. All ICC partners can support enrolling eligible children.
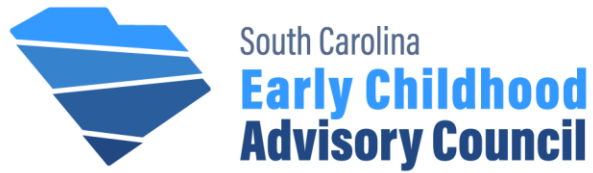
Building Hope for Children Conference, hosted by SC Children's Trust takes place August 24-25

<u>Upcoming ICC Meetings</u>
ICC will not meet in September. It will meet Tuesday, November 1. The group agreed to meet longer in November to finalize B5 report information.

<u>Adjourn</u> - The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

Report on the Activities of the Early Childhood Advisory Council
For August 18, 2022

SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System
Early Learning Extension (ELE), funded by Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant (SLDS)
1. Background
    a. The ELE will be able to answer key questions about children while they were enrolled in early childhood care and education programs.
    b. The ELE will connect with the existing state K-12 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) to link early childhood care and education programs to K-12 outcomes.
2. Data Governance Work Group (DGWG)
    a. Participating programs contributing data include First Steps, SCDE, DSS-SC Voucher, and Head Start.
    b. Technical advisory support from SCDE Office of Research and Data Analysis and SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA).
3. Progress Updates
    a. Data Governance Coordinator completed feasibility study with Head Start to determine data elements that will be included in the Statewide Longitudinal Data System.
        i. Next participating program to complete feasibility study is SC Voucher with DSS.
    b. Child Trends has completed stakeholder interviews with participating programs and other stakeholders.
        i. Information gathered during interviews was used to develop the Communications Toolkit that was previewed with the Data Governance Workgroup in June.
        ii. The Toolkit outlines four key messages that are important to communicate to audiences now while acknowledging that there will be different messages developed as the SCELE continues to progress.
        iii. This Communications Toolkit as a living document that can be updated as the SCELE work progresses.
        iv. The Communications Toolkit has been shared with 37 Gears to support development of brand collateral and a data visualization style guide.
        v. Current version of toolkit can be found as an attachment to the August ECAC Report.
    c. SC Department of Education has developed and shared an initial draft of a data sharing agreement with the participating programs.
        i. Programs have asked for additional time to review the document as additional questions have emerged.
    d. A partner onboarding document has been finalized and prepared as a recommendation for the ECAC for August meeting.

Palmetto Drive to Five Data Dashboard, funded by Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
1. Background

a. An activity of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five Initiative is to develop and implement an integrated data system for South Carolina, that will be housed and supported at RFA

b. The PDG Data Governance Work Group will work to identify information to include on public dashboards about children enrolled in early childhood programs and services.

2. Data Governance Work Group Members

a. First Steps, DSS, DDSN, DHHS, DHEC, Help Me Grow, ParentChild+, SCDE, Head Start, and South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

b. Technical support from RFA

3. Progress Updates

a. Data Governance Coordinator is preparing and sending out MOA to accompany the SC ECIDS Data Governance Charter to participating programs for signature. The Data Governance Charter outlines roles and responsibilities of participating programs.

b. We are asking permission to use the administrative data, provided by select early childhood programs from 2017, 2020, and 2021 for the PDG Year Two Annual Report to build out the first iteration of data visualizations for the Palmetto Drive to Five Data Dashboard.

    i. These data are readily available at the State Data Warehouse at RFA, requiring no additional data collection or preparation from programs at this time. The first iteration proposed for the Palmetto Drive to Five Dashboard would use the administrative data that programs provided to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Year Two annual report.

    ii. State Agencies and programs gave permission, initiated by a letter from Michele Bowers at DSS, the state PDG lead agency, in early 2022, to include data in an unduplicated count of children ages 0-5 served by (select) programs. Data will be reported in the aggregate and at county level. The data will be disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, age of child, and by programs/agencies serving the child for calendar years 2017, 2020 and 2021. Further, agencies and programs also granted permission to RFA to report this data through the remainder of the grant period, including calendar year 2022.

    iii. Agencies and programs agreed to provide data with the understanding that only aggregate data will be released, counts of less than 10 will be masked, and the marginal/totals will not be reported if low cell frequencies can be calculated.

    iv. As a reminder, the agencies and programs that share data are the data owners. Data owners are represented throughout the governing structure of the data governance work group and through the larger initiative of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS). At the Data Governance Work Group on July 6, 2022, the representatives from the programs agreed that it would be appropriate to use the PDG Annual Report Data to build out the first iteration of data visualizations for the Palmetto Drive to Five Data Dashboard.

As dashboard models are created, they will be shared with data owners for feedback

    c. RFA is finalizing a data sharing agreement to be able to prepare distinct, unduplicated counts, aggregate dashboards, and aggregate reports using participating program data.

    d. The Data Governance Work Group continues to finalize information for the use case of a distinct, unduplicated count for fiscal year 2021-2022.

First Five SC

See materials in ECAC packet

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

February 1, 2020 – July 31, 2022

Unique website visitors: 108,532
Total leads: 16,472
Eligible for at least one program: 13,794
Head Start eligible: 6,377
First Steps 4K eligible: 4,472
Public school eligible: 6,973
SC DSS voucher eligible: 2,160

Transitions
1. The workgroup continues to meet to implement tactics that support transition activities:
    a. The [Transitions from Pre-K to 5K Parent Survey 2022](#) closed close June 30
        i. 244 responses received
    b. Subgroups have been formed to create transitions toolkits for teachers, administrators, and home visitors throughout Summer and Fall 2022. The first intensive development work session was held 8/8 for the administrator toolkit.
    c. Focus groups with teachers about transitions practices began August 3, 2022.
        i. First focus group piloted at Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree.
        ii. Six to seven additional focus groups will continue through October.
        iii. This information will be used to support the work of Countdown to Kindergarten, transitions in general, and the development of the teacher transitions toolkits.

Family Voice Council (FVC)
1. 42 total interest forms received
    a. 24 families met eligibility requirement (parent of child aged birth-5, recipient of public service)
    b. 21 families completed on-boarding, 20 current members. One member's service term ended 7/31/22.
    c. 8 members renewed for a second year term starting August 1, 2022.
    d. 2 Family Voice Council seats open in October; recruitment is on-going for 2022-2023 terms.

2. The July meeting was with SNAP-Ed and the August meeting will be 8/19 with Joyce Kimrey, Director of Early Intervention, SC Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs.
3. We will be publishing "A Year of Family Voice," report that offers feedback and recommendations from the SC Family Voice Council members during their first year of service.

Grants
1. Alliance for Early Success
    a. The Alliance for Early Success continues to support First Steps/ECAC work. Alliance grantmaking has changed such that awards are now unrestricted, and reporting has been minimized.
    b. Technical assistance, a feature of the Alliance grant, will continue this year.
2. Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
    a. PDG supports the following activities for ECAC: Birth through Five Plan (production completed; implementation report in progress), First Five SC, Palmetto PreK, and Family Voice Council
        i. Georgia Mjartan and Rachal Hatton-Moore participated in a podcast to showcase First Five SC among PDG grantees. The podcast was posted in July. https://soundcloud.com/ecpolicymatters/helping-families-navigate-early-childhood-in-south-carolina
    b. Year 3 began April 30, 2022. The Year 2 annual report was submitted to Administration for Children and Families, ACF in July.
    c. This is the final year for the grant. States may request no-cost extensions as necessary.
        i. Recently ACF forecasted another round of PDG funding. SC is an eligible applicant.

South Carolina Early Learning Extension Communication Strategy

To inform the SCELE Communication Strategy, we conducted interviews with key partners to determine the roles, influence, and communications needs of all relevant audiences. Partners included:

- SC First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships
- Head Start
- South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) Early Care and Education
- South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Early Learning and Literacy; Special Education; Research and Data; and Data Management
- Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
- Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Staff
- Education Oversight Council (EOC)
- Family Voice Council (FVC)

Objectives

Through our conversations with our main contact Justina Siuba, Data Governance Coordinator, and through our conversations with key partners, we established **objectives** for this communications strategy:

- **Specific objective:** To build awareness of the goal and purpose of the South Carolina Early Learning Extension and its potential to inform the relationship between early learning and later academic outcomes.
- **Measurable objectives:**
  - Build a strategic list of target audiences to facilitate direct outreach based on actions needed in the coming year
  - Develop messaging that convey the importance of the SCELE
  - Develop messaging around the role of the Data Governance Workgroup in the SCELE

Target Audiences

Based on these conversations, the following **target audiences** will be the primary focus of the messaging around the goals of the SCELE.

- State-level directors or executives and staff for early learning programs
- Staff across early learning programs and schools, with a particular focus on kindergarten
- External partners committed to children's academic success (e.g., community partners, Education Oversight Committee, or P-20W+ partners)
- Legislative leaders (e.g., state legislature, Governor's Office)
- Children and families
- Researchers

Key Messages about the SCELE

In developing the current set of messages, it is important to consider the stage at which the SCELE is in development. Because there are details still in development and because data sharing has not yet occurred, the type of messaging that may be most appropriate for the planning stage of the process (see image) should focus more on **building a strong foundational understanding of the goals of the SCELE with target audiences**. Thus, the initial messages can be revised, adapted, and added to in future years as more details are determined with the SCELE.
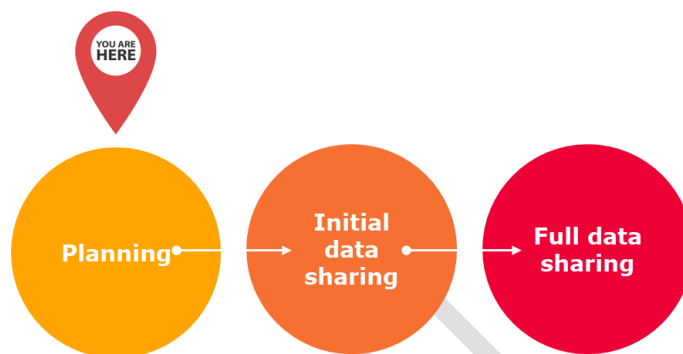
Planning stage messages may include

- The goal and purpose for sharing the data
- The partners involved in sharing the data
- The process for how data are shared
- Who has decision-making authority about the process

Initial data sharing messages may include

- Which data elements are being shared across programs and how they align to the questions that can be answered about the relationship between early learning and later academic outcomes
- Which data elements are made public and which are kept private
- How the data elements align with the South Carolina Birth Through Five Plan
- How data are aggregated

Full data sharing messages may include

- How to use and interpret shared data
- Details on who can access which type of information and the processes they can use to access these data
- Answers to any questions that are answered by the shared data
- Opportunities for connecting other types of data that are not already in the SCELE

For the planning stage, we identified four key messages with multiple sub-points that can help to explain the main message. We outline the key messages and sub-points below.

Message 1. The South Carolina Early Learning Extension is a groundbreaking effort to connect data across South Carolina's early learning programs.

- This effort will allow South Carolina to successfully connect data on early learning programs with one another for the first time.
- Information on children and families' comprehensive early learning experiences will now be available in South Carolina.
- There needs to be a sustainable, ongoing collaboration and coordination effort across early learning programs to ensure data are linked successfully.

- Early learning programs will be able to coordinate with one another so that they can best support children and families, especially those most vulnerable. With the SCELE, questions about what programs families are using and at what dosage may be answered.
- Early learning programs know what works for children, and the SCELE will offer a data point for early learning programs to support them as they serve children and families.
- Early learning programs will learn more about their programs to improve supports for children and families.

Message 2. The South Carolina Early Learning Extension will allow for the examination of child outcomes by connecting early learning data with later academic data.

- Data from early learning programs have not been regularly connected with later outcome data, such as educational outcomes. The linking of data can help South Carolina see how children are doing over time.
- With the SCELE, South Carolina partners can understand what happens to children who participate in early learning programs when they enter the school system, with a particular focus on kindergarten. By connecting data across early learning programs and with the K-12 system, the SCELE allows programs to have access to more data about children in their programs, including what the outcomes, experiences, or longitudinal trajectories are for children participating in their programs.
- SCELE programs can use these data for program improvement and adjust their programs to best serve children and families, especially to tailor services.

Message 3. The South Carolina Early Learning Extension will ensure the protection of data on children and families.

- The data on children and families in the SCELE are data already collected by the individual programs to support the program's functioning (i.e., administrative data). Additional data are not being collected from children and families for the SCELE.
- Data that can identify individual children or families will not be made public.
- Early learning programs will maintain ownership of their data shared in the SCELE and can work with families to ensure data are protected.
- Families have the option to not share identifiable data with the SCELE when they participate in programs.

Message 4. A Data Governance Workgroup is responsible for creating policies and procedures for how data in the South Carolina Early Learning Extension is shared and used.

- The Data Governance Workgroup members will establish policies and procedures that will protect the data of children and families
- The Data Governance Workgroup is comprised of individuals from organizations that share data in the SCELE.
- The Data Governance Workgroup is committed to work together, not against each other to ensure that data are protected.
- The Data Governance Workgroup will need sustained commitment from state leaders, programs, and families to ensure the success of the SCELE.
- The Early Childhood Advisory Council serves as a neutral entity overseeing the work of the Data Governance Workgroup.