

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

ACCESS		
1. Further expand access to high-quality early care, education, and early literacy services, particularly in the Abbeville plaintiff districts.		
Action	Measure	Completion Deadline
1A. Promote the implementation of evidence-based early care and education programming by local partnership boards.	1A.1: Develop, in collaboration with USC’s Institute for Families in Society, an initial guide categorizing evidence-based and evidence-informed programs, for approval by the First Steps Board of Trustees.	Approval by the Board on October 20, 2016.
	1A.2: Establish, within the Board’s Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee, a formal process through which new/additional strategies will be categorized as evidence-based or evidence-informed.	Approval by the Board on October 20, 2016.
	1A.3: Establish a budget for the evaluation of widely-used, evidence-informed strategies to inform their potential inclusion as evidence-based.	March 1, 2017
	1A4: Evidence-based programs as defined by the Board will comprise 75% of partnerships’ annual programmatic investments, effective July 1, 2017.	July 1, 2017
1B. Collaborate with agency partners to support and cross-promote existing quality efforts.	1B.1: Dedicate a section of the First Steps website to early childhood services provided by partner agencies (Head Start, public school 4K programs, the SC voucher program, etc.), including links, program descriptions, access and eligibility information and contact numbers.	December 1, 2016, then ongoing.
	1B.2: In collaboration with interagency partners, revisit the First Steps’ accountability standards to explore opportunities for greater alignment with partner agency goals (improved participation in the ABC quality program, Medicaid enrollment, DHEC obesity prevention, etc.)	February 15, 2017, then annually.
	1B.3: Collaborate with SCDE and Head Start to create and promote a joint 4K recruitment/application process.	March 1, 2017

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

<p>1C. Increase participation in the First Steps 4K program among both providers and families.</p>	<p>1C.1: Student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program will grow by at least 10% annually.</p> <p>1C.2: Provider enrollment within the First Steps 4K program will grow by at least 10% annually.</p>	<p>September 1, 2017, then annually.</p> <p>September 1, 2017, then annually.</p>
<p>1D. Pursue opportunities designed to expand access to high-quality early childhood education services.</p>	<p>1D.1: Prepare and submit federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership expansion application.</p> <p>1D.2: Provide resources and technical assistance to local partnerships, designed to support grant writing and fundraising efforts.</p>	<p>September 1, 2016, then ongoing.</p> <p>October 1, 2016, then ongoing.</p>
<p>1E. Add staffing capacity and new access points within the BabyNet system, with the goals of improving community-based access to BabyNet services within historically underserved communities, and ensuring a more timely and compliant BabyNet eligibility determination process.</p>	<p>1E.1: Deploy 18 new BabyNet SPOE staff with the goal of improving and ensuring federal system compliance.</p> <p>1E.2: Create or expand local BabyNet access points in Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach, Sumter, Georgetown, Greenwood and Walterboro.</p> <p>1E.3: Establish a BabyNet Deputy Director’s position and internal IFSP quality team designed to review service utilization and ensure the availability of service funds.</p> <p>1E.4: Document the performance of each local BabyNet office monthly, with a goal of ensuring an initial IFSP to all students within 45 days.</p>	<p>June 15, 2016</p> <p>October 1, 2016</p> <p>October 1, 2016</p> <p>June 15, 2016, then monthly.</p>
<p>2. Enhance/expand comprehensive services to children 0-5 and the families/caregivers who support them, recognizing families are the first and best teachers of their children.</p>		
<p>2A. Increase grant allocations to local partnerships designed to expand service access and support partnerships in their delivery of new core services established by Act 287 of 2014.</p>	<p>2A.1: Increase partnership funding by \$1.4M, raise partnership minimum funding from \$138,000 to \$200,000.</p> <p>2A.2: Provide a comprehensive report to General Assembly on expanded partnership services to children and families.</p>	<p>July 1, 2016</p> <p>December 1, 2016</p>

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

<p>2B. Successfully implement the agency’s Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships grant in 12 SC counties.</p>	<p>2B.1: Identify and contract with 15 initial EHS child care partners.</p> <p>2B.2: Provide pre-service training to all EHS teachers, directors, and staff.</p> <p>2B.3: Enroll 254 low-income infants and toddlers.</p>	<p>May 15, 2016</p> <p>July 1, 2016</p> <p>August 1, 2016</p>
<p>3. Increase understanding of school readiness domains and assessment, and “what works” to help young children succeed. Make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families.</p>		
<p>3A. Increase understanding of school readiness domains, assessment, and “what works” to help young children succeed. Make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families.</p>	<p>3A.1: Develop a FY17 budget and set of proposed action steps designed to continue the statewide “I CAN public awareness campaign in collaboration with local partnerships.</p> <p>3A.2: Develop updated collateral print materials, for modification by local partnerships, highlighting both the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner and the services of First Steps.</p> <p>3A.3: Document outreach to school districts/schools, parents, child care providers and business, faith, and community organizations re: new school readiness definition and description.</p>	<p>August 15, 2016</p> <p>October 1, 2016</p> <p>November 1, 2016, and ongoing.</p>
<p>CAPACITY BUILDING</p>		
<p>4. Build state and local capacity by strengthening interagency collaboration, public-private partnerships, strengthening technical assistance and leadership development for early childhood partnerships statewide.</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Measure</p>	<p>Completion Deadline</p>
<p>4A. Establish state-local teams, designed to ensure clear communication and synergy between local partnerships and state-level programming (technical assistants, 4K, BabyNet and EHS).</p>	<p>4A.1: Develop state-local team parameters in collaboration with executive director focus group, for review by ED Council.</p> <p>4A.2: Review and refine proposed state-local team concept with ED Council.</p> <p>4A.3: Launch state-local team meetings.</p>	<p>June 7, 2016</p> <p>June 13, 2016</p> <p>August 1, then ongoing.</p>

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

<p>4B. Establish an Executive Director Council, mirroring the state board structure, designed to expand local input and engage local stakeholders in key policy discussions.</p>	<p>4B.1: Develop ED Council concept in collaboration with executive director focus group, for review by ED Council.</p> <p>4B.2: Launch ED Council, assign committees.</p> <p>4B.3: Meet at least twice annually with ongoing committee work.</p>	<p>June 7, 2016</p> <p>June 13, 2016</p> <p>June 13, 2016, then ongoing.</p>
<p>4C. First Steps will create – in collaboration with agency partners - enhanced TA support/professional development networks to provide professional support and collaboration opportunities for local child care TAs, parent educators.</p>	<p>4C.1: Develop technical assistance network concepts for – at minimum – home visitation and child care technical assistance in collaboration with Program and Grants Committee of ED Council.</p> <p>4C.2: Document meetings of TA networks at least twice annually.</p>	<p>October 15, 2016</p> <p>December 1, 2016, then twice annually.</p>
<p>4D. Identify collective impact goals and best practices related to interagency and state/local collaboration opportunities.</p>	<p>4D.1: Using current SC data, the ED Council will identify one or more collective impact goals for proposal to the State Board of Trustees.</p> <p>4D.2: Using current SC data, the Board’s Interagency Collaboration Committee will identify one or more collective impact goals for proposal to the State Board of Trustees.</p> <p>4D.3: The First Steps Board of Trustees will identify one or more collective impact goals for incorporation into the FY18 grant renewal process.</p> <p>4D.4: South Carolina First Steps will measure and report progress toward its identified collective impact goals.</p>	<p>February 1, 2017</p> <p>March 1, 2017</p> <p>March 15, 2017</p> <p>June 30, 2018</p>
<p>4E. Develop – or actively participate in an existing - interagency strategic planning/needs assessment process designed to improve access to early childhood mental health (social emotional) resources.</p>	<p>4E.1: Convene – in collaboration with DMH, the SC Department of Social Services and others - an interagency group to discuss/inventory existing EC mental health resources and service gaps.</p>	<p>November 15, 2016</p>

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

	4E.2: Develop and adopt interagency recommendations to fill existing gaps in EC mental health.	June 15, 2017
5. Enhance systems of support for local partnerships, BabyNet providers, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships and 4K families		
5A. Add technical assistance resources in areas of identified partnership need, including the expansion of child-care, marketing-, evaluation-, and resource development-focused technical assistance in state office.	5A.1: Deploy at least four new partnership technical assistants in areas of identified need.	November 1, 2016
	5A.2: Dedicate expanded staff resources to ensuring at least one on-site technical assistance visit, per partnership, per year (in addition to twice annual state-local team meetings).	July 1, 2017, then annually.
5B. Develop, distribute and provide on-site support for tools to build capacity within local boards.	5B.1: Develop updated board training materials, designed for flexible use by local partnerships, and/or independent use by local board members (PowerPoint/YouTube)	July 15, 2016
	5B.2. Dedicate expanded staff resources to on-site technical assistance to local boards as requested.	September 1, 2016, then ongoing.
	5B.3. Convene at least one Board-to-Board training/meeting day annually.	December 15, 2016, then annually
5C. Support increased professional development on issues of equity and diversity.	5C.1: Establish and convene a Diversity Planning Team (consisting of state and local staff and board members) charged with developing a feasible professional development agenda designed to increase awareness and understanding of issues of equity and diversity.	September 15, 2016
	5C.2: Report the recommendations of the Diversity Planning Team to the Board of Trustees.	April 2017
	5C.3: Implement the professional development recommendations of the Diversity Planning Team, as approved by the State Board.	May 2017 and ongoing.
	5C.4: Plan and provide diversity training to all new Early Head Start staff.	November 1, 2016

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

<p>5D. Support increased technical assistance to 4K providers.</p>	<p>5D.1: Host Summer Professional Development Academies for both 4K teachers and directors, making these opportunities available to agency partners as space and resources permit.</p> <p>5D.2: Pilot use of the McCormick Center Director’s Credential and other supports to center directors. Report findings to the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>5D.3: Initiate use of the ECERS-3 and CLASS assessment across all 4K classrooms, use the resulting data to customize on-site technical assistance.</p>	<p>September 1, 2016, then annually</p> <p>June 30, 2017</p> <p>June 1, 2017, then annually as pilot testing dictates.</p>
<p>5E. Support increased technical assistance to EHS-CCP providers</p>	<p>5E.1: SC First Steps will provide intensive pre-service training to all EHS child care partners prior to the enrollment of EHS students.</p> <p>5E.2: SC First Steps will provide intensive, on-site technical assistance to each of 15 providers participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant. A status report on all aspects of the Early Head Start grant will be provided to the EHS Governance Council prior to each Board meeting.</p>	<p>June 30, 2016</p> <p>July 1, 2016 and ongoing</p>
<p>5F. Support increased technical assistance to BabyNet service providers.</p>	<p>5F.1: Develop formal provider recruitment strategies, designed to increase service provision in geographic areas of high need. Consider fiscal impact in association with the agency’s FY18 budget requests to the Governor and General Assembly.</p> <p>5F.2: Implement BabyNet provider recruitment strategies as available resources permit.</p> <p>5F.3: Develop and deploy training in evidence-based early intervention practices for BabyNet providers.</p> <p>5F.4: Develop an online referral portal within the BRIDGES data system and provide associated technical assistance to BabyNet referral sources.</p>	<p>October 15, 2016</p> <p>March 2017 and ongoing.</p> <p>Develop January 30, 2017 Implement March 30, 2017</p> <p>July 1, 2017 and ongoing.</p>

VISION 2020: ACTION STEPS (2016-2018)

As Approved by the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee – June 9, 2016

ACCOUNTABILITY		
6. Examine and strengthen early childhood transitions for children among SC’s early childhood system partners to ensure continuity of care and healthy development.		
6A. Collaborate with key interagency partners in an effort to strengthen programmatic accountability and transitions (4K to 5K, BabyNet to Part B, Early Head Start to Head Start)	6A.1: Collaborate with the SCDE to develop and implement joint transition training for BN service providers and school district staff.	April 2017
	6A.2: Collaborate with the SCDE and national/regional technical assistance providers to establish electronic sharing of child outcome ratings between BN and SCDE, enabling Part B to utilize Part C exit ratings as their entrance ratings upon transition.	November 1, 2017
	6A.3: Develop formal strategies to expand Countdown to Kindergarten through private giving and increased collaboration with local school districts.	April 30, 2017
	6A.4: Convene Head Start partners in 12 First Steps EHS communities to explore public private partnerships designed to ensure continuity of service from 0-5 for children participating in First Steps’ Early Head Start- child Care Partnerships Grant.	March 1, 2017
	6A.5: Collaborate with key partners to ensure the improved federal compliance of the interagency BabyNet early intervention system and the successful implementation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).	July 1 and ongoing
	6A.6: Work in collaboration with Governor Haley and staff to ensure the seating of a federally compliant BabyNet Interagency Coordinating Council.	September 1, 2016

