

**South Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 19, 2023**

**SC School for the Deaf and the Blind, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, SC, 29210**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Heather Googe, Chair, University of South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative  
Scott Falcone, South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB)  
Jordan Desai, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS)  
Laura McCraw, Provider of Early Intervention Services  
Sherri Evans, SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES)  
Dr. David Rotholz, Trainer of Personnel (University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources)  
Joyce Kimrey, South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN)  
Louise Johnson, South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH)  
Karen Larson, Provider of Early Intervention Services  
Kimberly Seals, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)  
Jena Martin, (designee for Amy Holbert), Parent Training and Information Center (Family Connection SC)  
Evelyn Patterson Grant, South Carolina Head Start  
Representative Paula Calhoon, Legislator, House District 87

**Guests Present:**

Jennifer Buster, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Program Director, SCDHHS  
Stephanie Donald, SCDHHS  
LaJuanya Jones, SCDHHS  
Heather Blackwell, SCDHHS  
Robin Morris, SCDHHS  
Elaine Gentry, SCSDB  
Addison Lee, SCDHHS  
Kamry Bell, Department of Insurance  
Tara Carroll, South Carolina Department of Environmental Control (SCDHEC)  
Melissa Griffin, Easterseals  
Stacy Scruggs, Easterseals  
Dr. Sarah Edmunds, University of South Carolina  
Willie Stokes, About Play  
Jennifer Strock, SCDHHS  
Frances Stroman, SCDHHS  
Nuria Lopez, Great Kids and Awesome Adults

**Welcome and Introductions:** Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Dr. David Rotholz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sherri Evans.

**Approval of Minutes:**

David Rotholz made a motion to approve the March 2023 minutes, seconded by Jordan Desai.

**Public Comment:** None

**BabyNet Director's Report:**

Jennifer Buster, BabyNet Director, presented her report to the committee.

- SC received the determination of Meets Requirements for 2023.
- Grant application was submitted in May, and the program received a small increase in funding.
- Lots of work is being done to spend ARP dollars on initiatives such as training on evidence-based practices, and provider recruitment and retention.
- RFP for the data system is closed, and there is a team evaluating the proposals.
- Revised policies and procedures were posted on July 7. There will be public hearings in August.
- Next week is Early Interventionists Professionals week in South Carolina.
- Laura Tsuboi recently joined the BabyNet state office, joining Robin Morris in the provider relations department.

**State Agency Updates:**

Center For Disability Resources: There is a continued search to find funding for Palmetto Pyramid Police Partnership. Several grant requests have been submitted.

Department of Mental Health: Children's mental health conference was very successful, and the conference continues to grow. Plans are being made for a large Parental Awareness Summit in Sumter. The agency received a grant for the Spartanburg area that include services such as Safe Babies Court, Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and a crisis unit.

Family Connection: A pilot program has been launched to provide STAT evaluations in childcare centers for children ages 18 months to 3 years.

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: As part of the agency's strategic plan, 12 Autism service providers were reviewed and the results were overwhelmingly positive.

OSes: Received determination of needs assistance. Indicator 12 was 99.5% for transition conferences from Part C being timely. Child count is up by 885 children. 6,647 total children are being served by Preschool Special Services.

SCSDB: Kelly's Kids Spartanburg County Early Head Start has been in operation since 2005. 50% of the children are typically developing and 50% are Part C eligible with hearing or vision loss. The program will be expanding to allow slots for 16 children this fall. SCSDB will be supporting the American Association for the deaf- conference in Charleston.

DDSN: Next week is Early Intervention Professionals week.

DHEC: Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Back to School Bash will be July 29. SC Hands and Voices is organizing a parent conference on September 16<sup>th</sup> at Brooklyn Baptist Church in West Columbia. DHEC recently completed a gap analysis regarding developmental screening. The concerns were related to follow-up, and having a centralized location for results. Planning for a Developmental Screening Summit has begun. Kimberly Seals will leaving her position in mid-September.

Heather gave a presentation on preschool suspension and expulsion definitions and work.

The next meeting will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.