



Board Meeting  
September 13, 2013

**Board Members Present:** All board members used call-in option: Danny Varat, Keith Frazier, Karen Sparkman, Karen Allen, Stephanie Knobel, Jennifer Powers, Stacy Burr, Stacy Peek, Meredith Burton, Melissa Starker, Melissa Roper, Tricia Surles, Linda Brees  
**Staff Present:** Derek Lewis, Beth Jamieson

**Meeting called to order:** 1:30pm

**Derek Lewis** provided an update on the board approved strategies.

Based on conversations on three pending strategies the following recommendations were made as changes to the funding proposals submitted in August:

First Steps would not use funds to support the consultant for **Nicholtown Child Development Center**. These funds would be committed to supporting child services in the Nicholtown community, but not specifically for a consultant.

**Update on Family Literacy Project** (to replace Cat in the Hat Funding). Working with Dr. Hartman, we propose shifting funding from an EVENT (like Cat in the Hat) to an RFP that would promote family literacy projects. The RFP would be built by a team of board and community members, would launch in November, with awards in Feb for projects to be completed by May. The projects funded would range from \$500-\$1000 and would allow small non profits, teacher organizations at local colleges, CDCs, churches or community groups to launch projects to increase access to books and reading initiatives in high poverty areas.

First Steps would not use funds for the First **steps website design work for rural counties**. It was determined that a greater need would be capacity and program building. Instead First steps would support a Regional Rural Summit where representatives from smaller counties would be invited to participated in presentations about programs that have been proven to work in Rural Communities. This summit will be coordinated by Francis Marion University and the SC Institute for Child Success.

These funding decisions were approved unanimously by board members

Derek provided an update on the First steps transition team. Members of the community have been recruited including Michelle Shain, Diane Smock, Jamie Moon, Joe Waters, Heather Love, and two board members: Keith Frazier and Karen Allen. All board members are invited to attend. Purpose of team is to explore First Steps transition options, and to narrow down to two best opportunities and present to board in December for discussion and final approval.

Timeline:

Initial Planning Committee Meeting – 9/27 (review timeline, scope, responsibilities)

Board Meeting – 10/18 (present process to Board)

Board Session – Use 11/8 Board meeting for planning session with the Board

Planning Committee Meeting if needed – 11/22

Board Meeting – 12/13 – approve option for moving forward

Next board meeting: Friday, Oct 18 2:00PM