

Greenville First Steps Board of Directors minutes

March 4, 2022 meeting

Members present: Jeremy Watts (Chair), Eric Hassman (ViceChair), Deb Vanderveer, Stacy Burr, Gina Blohm, Jennifer James, Stacie Stegall, Travis Wharton, Jane Yates, Vonda Paul, Kelly Byers, Cynthia Sosebee, JoKeitha Seabrook, DeeDee Washington, Amy Fowlkes

Others present: Derek Lewis, Beth Jamieson, Nicole Sheppard, Janice Kilburn (SC First Steps office), Mike Teachey (Noble Aim Consulting)

Welcome Jeremy Watts

Jeremy welcomed the group. While we had planned to meet face to face, some facility renovations at our office have cut the internet and water for the day, and so we met 100% virtually.

Approval of January minutes Jeremy Watts

Motion by DeeDee Washington, Second by Travis Wharton to approve the January Minutes. Motion carried.

Family Connects Derek Lewis

Staff present a summary of the Family Connects program. As a reminder, this is a universal home visiting program recognized by SC First Steps as an evidenced based program. We have contracted with NobleAim consulting to convene a group of stakeholders to explore the project, whether it is a viable intervention to be offered in Greenville County, and to explore whether PRISMA, DHEC, and Bon Secours can reach consensus on the service delivery method. Mike Teachey, from NobleAim consulting, provided an update. A team of stakeholders (including representatives from DHEC, PRISMA, and Bon Secours as well as First Steps, and other local community members) was formed and met to explore the program. The team worked to build consensus that they would recommend the program proceed, and that DHEC be the implementing agency and Greenville First Steps work to establish a special activity fund within a local foundation to serve as the Fiscal Agent.

The Greenville First Steps board discussed the program, and accepted the committee's initial recommendations, as follows: including an update from NobleAim consulting (the team leading the exploratory phase). The presentation will include two proposed motions:

A motion to approve \$200,000 in one-time funds to support the planning phase of Family Connects (Year 0 in the attached budget). This will cover the initial costs of getting program team in place, with a desire to begin enrolling clients by Jan 1, 2023. Motion made by Eric Hassman, and Second by Vonda Paul. Motion carried.

A motion to make the following changes to the existing FY22 budget to free up \$200,000: \$50,000 from the elimination of Raising a Reader program from budget (never enrolled clients) and \$150,000 in funds currently unallocated in various other FY22 budgets. Motion made by JoKeitha Seabrook and Second by Vonda Paul. Motion carried

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FY23 proposed budget priorities

Beth Jamieson

In 2021, the board approved a multi-year strategic plan with two relevant priorities: improve early literacy outcomes and improve social/emotional development. The board was presented with a series of recommended programs/interventions to include in the FY23 budget.

1. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in language and literacy. To achieve progress towards this goal in FY2023 we recommend the following:

Reach Out and Read: \$30,000

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: \$35,000

Literacy outreach: \$40,000

Childcare workforce training: \$30,000

Total: \$235,000

2. More students enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness in social foundations. To achieve progress towards this goal, in FY2023 we recommend the following:

Triple P (Positive Parenting Program): \$400,000

Nurse Family Partnership: \$150,000

Nurturing Parenting: \$50,000

Childcare workforce training: \$50,000

3K/4K supports: \$45,000

Family Connects: (Year 0/1): \$150,000

Total: \$845,000

Item was presented as for discussion only. Board members will receive a first draft of the total budget in early April- with weeks for input before final board. For information only, no action was taken

Community Conversations

Derek Lewis

Save the date: May 5 luncheon (Childcare Awareness day) for a community conversation about the importance of childcare, the challenges providers face in this Covid era, and what opportunities are available for supporting providers. More details will be announced in next few weeks.

Centre Stage: Board event

Beth Jamieson

Tuesday March 8 preview party for 9 to 5. Board (and a guest) invited to attend. Please RSVP with Beth.

Other business

Jeremy Watts

Jeremy provided an update on a recent bill filed by Sen. Scott Talley. The bill would include restructuring of First Steps at the state and local level. The bill would create 14 regions (Greenville would be included in a region with Newberry and Laurens counties). This bill was filed earlier this week, and SCFS did not have any updates on the viability of the bill or the intentions of Sen Talley surrounding the bill. However, Derek was able to speak with a few other senators and presented his perspective that the bill was not likely to pass the Senate prior to the end of this legislative session- which would essentially kill the bill. The bill is likely an early draft of a future bill that will likely be filed for the 2023-2024 session.

Adjourn

Jeremy Watts