

**South Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 19, 2025**  
**SC School for the Deaf and Blind, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, SC 29210**

**Members Present:**

**Heather Googe, ICC Chair, University of South Carolina Research Associate Professor**

Ms. Laura McCraw, *Provider of Early Intervention Services-About Play*

Ms. Sherri Evans, *SC Department of Education*

Ms. Tara Carroll, *South Carolina Department of Public Health (SCDPH)*

Ms. Amy Holbert, *Family Connections of South Carolina*

Dr. David Rotholz, *University of South Carolina Center for Disability Resources*

**Guests Present:**

Ms. Jennifer Buster, *Director of BabyNet*

Ms. Stephanie Donald, *BabyNet Data Manager*

Ms. Jena Martin, *BabyNet Operations Manager*

Dr. Sarah Edmunds-*University of South Carolina*

Ms. Elaine Gentry-*South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind*

Dr. Shawna McCafferty, *South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS)*

Ms. Willie Stokes, *About Play*

**Virtually Present:**

Ms. Joyce Kimrey, *South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)*

Lindsey Chaffin, *South Carolina Department of Insurance*

Ms. Jordan Desai, *Deputy Director of Programs-SCDHHS*

Anita Ellison-Porter, *South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH)*

Scott A. Falcone, *South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind*

Jillian Franklin, *Bright Start*

LaJuanya Jones, *BabyNet Finance Manager SCDHHS*

Karen Larson, *Easter Seals*

Addison Lee, *Quality Metrics Research Assistant (SCDHHS)*

Deneen Middleton, *Kid in Development Services (KIDS)*

Robin Morris, *BabyNet Provider Relations Manager SCDHHS*

Joyce Shelley, *BabyNet Regional Coordinator-SCDHHS*

Brianna Steed, *BabyNet Regional Coordinator-SCDHHS*

Jennifer Strock, *BabyNet Regional Coordinator-SCDHHS*

Laura Tsuboi, *BabyNet Provider Relations SCDHHS*

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Dr. Heather Googe welcomed everyone

**Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Sherri Evans made a motion to approve the agenda and Dr. David Rotholz seconded.

Correction was made to change date from February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Approval of Minutes: Approved as amended**

Tabled approval of minutes and will return to them in July.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Fast Track Referral:**

Stephanie Donald, BabyNet Data Manager, presented on the pilot program that will expedite BabyNet eligibility criteria by partnering with the 30 QTIP (Quality through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics) practices and providers. (Please see the attached report.)

Stephanie reviewed the criteria and components related to referral to eligibility process as it is now, and the 3 options providers will have using this pilot

- Stephanie reviewed Data:
  - Review of referrals received in FFY 2024
  - Physicians at 6,293
  - CAPTA 2213
  - Parent/Relative 2554
  - Current Enrollment 3/13/25
  - Birth to 12 mos.: live births 55117 Expected Enrollment 689 SC Enrollment 758
  - 12-36 months: live births 169425
  - Timely Initial IFSPS (45-day process)
  - Indicator 8c: Transition Conferences
  - Timely at 88%
  - Family Outcomes Surveys currently at 38%
  - Highest rate of return ever
  - Possible survey through texting in the future

**BabyNet Director's Report:**

Jennifer Buster, BabyNet Director, presented her report to the committee. (Please see the attached report).

- Policy and Procedure changes will occur after grant application has been submitted
- BabyNet videos have been closed captioned, currently waiting on official go ahead from SCDHHS communications
- Clarification period in mid-April, OSEP questions on APR
- Bridges Integration:
  - Testing phase with weekly meetings
  - Module should make process easier for providers and a better way to track payments and escalations
  - Will roll out later this year in order to make sure everything is done well
- Medicaid and Part C cuts questions

- There is a statement from SCDHHS that has been published, as of now we do not anticipate people losing access to their Part-C IDEA:
  - The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is closely monitoring discussions in Washington, DC about potential federal changes to state Medicaid and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C programs. At this time, the agency does not anticipate an impact on eligible South Carolinians being able to enroll in or maintain their Medicaid or IDEA Part C coverage.
- Contracts with partnering agency
  - Initial review and internal work have been completed
- Working with Addison Lee to organize ICC membership

**Discuss this Year's APR data:**

Stephanie Donald, BabyNet Data Manager presented on the Annual Report and explained data anomalies. (Please see the attached report).

BRIDGES Integration- currently in the testing phase, hope to go live in the fall 2025

Medicare and Part C cuts- HHS has statement prepared; at this time, eligible SC members are not at risk of losing their Medicaid or Part C services -statement is located on HHS website

Dr. Rothholz will email a flow chart of all DoE cuts

**State Agency Updates:**

CDR:

- Technology Expo is next week
- Have received contract from Medicaid to enroll MCC into attendant care? They must get an EIM from IRS needs signatures, will be stressful for families to work through the process
  - Will take a while to roll out, complicated internally and for families
  - Optimistic for how much this will help families
- Renewal Application for P-4 grant will be submitted soon

619:

- LEA Determinations: COS completion, worked with ECTA and SKIPPY to roll COS and Indicator 6
- Looking at changing performance factor, redesigning
  - Just running data this year, and will go into effect next year
- Summer University is coming up and will be at Columbia Convention Center

Family Connection SC:

- Renewal application for grant was due at the beginning of March
  - HRSA federal grant was impacted after executive orders went into place due to non-profit status
  - They did accept the application and have received feedback but still waiting for more information
  - Two project officers for the entire U.S. which has slowed process

- Struggling with lots of misinformation and feelings of fear for families with the current federal decisions. BabyNet and SCDHHS have been really helpful with communication and working for families.
  - Working with partners and families to make sure services are still accessible and families have help navigating these difficult times. Importance of communication and wording to access services needed.
- Went from 4 Project Officers to 2 for the entire US
- DoE OCR Dr. Mitch Yell confirmed there were 12 offices now there are 5
- FCSC: Conference is next week 3/27/25
  - Still room for professionals and others to register!
- Laurie Strickland is the new Director of Early Childhood Programs at FCSC.
- Elizabeth Kinney Director of Training
- Pilot program with DSS and HHS to administer 2 tier screening for ASD in midlands childcare center
- RITA-T implementation and navigation as well as funding developing
- Also have a full time FCSC staff at behavioral health clinic

DDSN: Joyce Kimrey

- Application for new Early Intervention Providers is now open and ready for new providers to apply!

SCDHHS: Jordan Desai

- Eunice Medina was confirmed as our new Agency Director in a unanimous senate vote earlier this month!
- Jordan Desai has stepped in as Deputy Director of Programs.
- At this time our two innovation grants in maternal health and behavioral health are secure, and we will continue to monitor changes at the federal and state level. Additionally, we received approval from CMS for a state plan amendment that would limit the number of MCOs operating in South Carolina. We will be putting existing MCOs through a certification process that kicks off in July and will span 18 months. I'd be happy to present on this at the next ICC.

DPH, Tara Carroll

- In transition of moving their office
  - Will be moving in with DMH, DSS, and DAODIS to Cayce in the old Dominion Energy Offices
- First Sound-jut submitted competitive grant to CDC
- Camp Burnt Gin is accepting applications for the summer

No updates from Department of Insurance

No updates from DMH

No updates from Head Start

#### **Updates regarding Membership:**

- Looking at the current membership everyone's appointment has expired

- Interest form:
  - Distribute an interest form initially
  - Then make recommendation to Governor's office
    - ICC does not decide who is selected they just recommend
    - Governor could add whoever they want
- Representation of agencies is different
  - Can send proxy if unable to attend
  - Work with Governor's office to identify-quicker process
- Looking towards a By-Laws change, will need to organize a committee
  - Need to change wording to be more inclusive of parent members
  - DPH will need to change from DHEC
  - Should be done now-is a priority
    - Getting interest forms and collecting membership applications will be a longer process, and don't want to put off the changes that can be made now.
  - Working on these at the same time will help move the process along quicker
- **Dr. Heather Gooze would like to step down from the Chair position**
  - Looking for new leadership and to open the floor to others for the opportunity
  - Thank you to Heather Gooze for her leadership of the ICC over the last few years
- DMS prep means that we need to ensure we take the time to solidify next steps and organize properly. This is an obligatory committee and something that is required of the state to hold.
  - Thousands of families and children rely on the ICC's support, it's imperative that it remain strong during this period of time.

#### **Other Business**

- Received approval around TA, will be reaching out to various members through this work
  - With partnership increase referrals and awareness for Part C childcare
  - Progress of the group will be reported next meeting, and the plan will be to wrap up in September 30.
- Champions Symposium is still scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Proposals closed Monday so schedule will be coming together shortly.
- Tentative dates for 25-26 meetings (Pending turbulence)
  - July 16, 2025
  - October 15, 2025
  - January 7, 2026 (TBD)
  - March 18, 2026 (TBD)

**Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.**

**Next meeting, July 16, 2025.**