

South Carolina Association of Early Care & Education NEWSLETTER

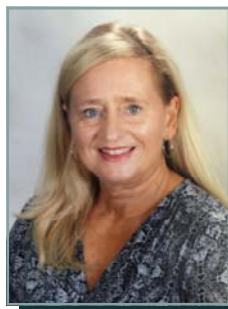
SPRING 2016



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Message from the President By: Tami Nix



The 2015-16 year has been a busy one for your association. The board kicked off the year in September with a strategic planning meeting facilitated by leadership expert Jim Patterson. During this meeting, Jim led the team to establish our focus for the year to include five focus areas:

- ☐ Grow membership
- ☐ Marketing
- ☐ Benefits of membership
- ☐ Legislative
- ☐ Create Regional Chapters - Improve education opportunities.

The board has been working hard to make progress in these areas, and encourages you as a member to get involved in your association by volunteering. The association needs your help.

In November, the SCAECE Fall Leadership Conference featured Jill Bella from the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. The event was a real treat for early Childhood leaders in our state. The McCormick Center is well known for providing cutting edge guidance in leadership for our industry. Keep your eyes open for the 2016 Fall Leadership Conference. SCAECE conferences provide high quality training for Directors and Assistant Directors to engage them in their quests of being all they can be as early learning leaders.

Congratulations to Cindy Walton-McCauley on a very successful 2016 Annual Conference! Over 500 early childhood professionals from across the state attended the conference! The support from our management group JEE, was outstanding. We are looking forward to the 2017 Conference featuring Bill Corbett as the keynote speaker.

A special thank you goes to Ed Brashier at FCI Agency and the board members who provided a training opportunity for providers

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Highlights from SCAECE 2016 Conference

By: Cindy Walton-McCawley

Our annual conference offered attendees a broad array of workshops. Our 478 participants indicated that they really enjoyed the day.



Keynote speaker **Andrew Agatston**, legal counsel for Safe Path Childrens' Advocacy Centers of Georgia provided us with very helpful information on the legal issues surrounding mandated reporting in South Carolina.



Robin McCants of McCants and Associates, got everyone's grey matter working with a session Brain Development: Teaching with the Whole Child in Mind.

There was dancing, moving and learning with **Rebecca Botts** and **Terri Crider** of Stretch and Grow in their session on FUNtastic Fitness!



James Cooper with OSHA Voluntary Training made learning about Blood-borne Pathogens interesting and humorous as only he can!

The five happy winners of our grand door prizes. Each participant won \$100.00. Special thanks to Kaplan and Adlerian Child Care for the door prize contributions.



Kelly Pfeiffer of the SC Center for Child Care Career Development offered useful information about career development services in the session 2016 Updates from the CCCCD.





Sharon Johnson & Kimberly Kennedy with ABC Quality Care provided super information for teachers of infants and toddlers in their session, Digging Deeper Into Early Learning for Infants and Toddlers.



Dr. Frank Walton, psychologist and author, delivered a helpful session on understanding the Private Logic of ADHD Children and Their Parents.



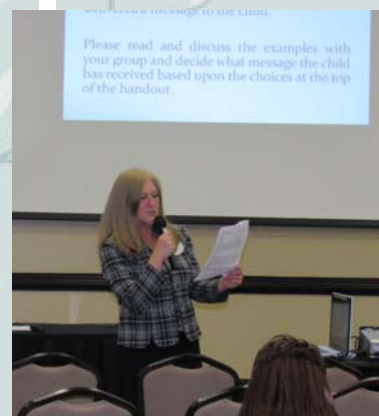
Beverly Hunter and Cathy Kovacs offered some very useful information about the new ABC Standards in their session, On Your Mark, Change is Coming to South Carolina.



Greta Avery of the Child and Adult Food Program gave a well received session on In-fant Feeding and Record Keeping for CACFP.



Haley Pugh of Chapin Children's Center/Abner Montessori offered some super ideas on guidance for teachers in her session Peaceful Classrooms = Liberty + Structure.



Cindy Walton-McCawley, author and CEO of Adlerian Child Care Centers, offered participants suggestions on encouraging the development of empathy in the session, Laying the Foundation for the Development of Empathy.

Message from the President (continued)

in the Spartanburg area. This is one way we are reaching out to licensed providers in the state to make sure you know we are here, and representing you.

Legislative concerns for our industry define the core of how the South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education makes a difference for you. We continue to work on a legislative bill to address the four hour exemption, and other issues that threaten our existence. The association is aware and working on the First Steps 4k fight to survive and remain a viable entity without moving under the S.C. Department of Education. Please read the legislative update in this newsletter for more updates regarding legislative issues in our state. A special thank you to Jeff Thordahl (lobbyists), Tricia Sheldon (VP and Legislative Chair) and Shannon Erickson-Smith on all the hard work they do every day on behalf of all of us who operate licensed child care facilities in this great state. Thank you!

As president, I have visited licensed centers to share the relevance of this association and the importance of being a member of the only statewide association representing licensed child care providers in South Carolina. It is exciting to have the opportunity to meet fellow providers, and hear their stories. I plan to

continue my visits and hope to reach out to many more licensed providers in the coming months.

The most important message to you, the SCAECE membership, is to say "Thank You"! I appreciate you, and value all you do for the families in the

great state of South Carolina. I look forward to continue working with our board, and you, to ensure a successful year for this association.



Advertising

Advertise with SCAECE to connect your product with child care providers.

Future issues to come in 2016:

Summer, Fall and Winter



Email Lynsey Cichon for more information
lynsey@jee.com

Representative Neal Collins visits Small World of Easley

By: Carolyn Watts

Representative Collins and I spoke about the importance of keeping 4K kindergarten in the private sector and not allowing it to be taken over by the public school systems. I also mentioned how Small World is an ABC provider and provides financial assistance for children from low income families. We discussed how Pickens County has public and private programs in place and that the parents needed to be better educated about their options. Representative Collins stated that his main concern/desire is for all children in Pickens County to have an opportunity to attend a 4K Kindergarten program. After he men-



tioned this, I reiterated that all children in Pickens County already have that opportunity and the parents need to be informed of their options.

Regional Meeting Update

By: Ed Brashier

We had our first regional meeting for SCAECE on January 14. We were hosted by Kids R Kids at their Greer location.

We had seven people in attendance, the program included one hour CE, the story of SCAECE, a legislative update and remarks concerning FCI AGENCY (we sponsored).

While the meeting was not attended as well as our committee had hoped, we plan to do another this spring. Perhaps in the Sumter area.



The Legislative Conversation

The Legislative Update

By: Jeff Thordahl

Two significant issues facing the licensed child care industry are working their way through the General Assembly.

First is the attention being placed on the role the State Office of First Steps plays and should play in early childhood education and development. First Steps has been the subject of several committee meetings. They have made a strong case that they are uniquely positioned and enabled to provide valuable support to the private child care world by partnering with centers to continually increase the quality of learning through the state 4K program and with services such as Baby Net. In one hearing several private centers testified to the wonderful 4K programs they now have at their centers as a result of their partnership with First Steps. The General Assembly has a much better and heightened awareness of the benefits First Steps provided to both the private centers and the attending children. If you feel so compelled, let your local legislators know of the value of First steps to your facility.

Second there is still great commitment by interested parties and the General Assembly to enhance the safety of children in all child care settings. H. 3767 originally sought to require all but a narrowly excepted few child care settings to be fully licensed by DSS just like the currently licensed child care facilities. In discussion about the bill as it was introduced it became apparent that the Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA's, Recreational Departments and other after school child care settings would have an almost impossible ability to become fully licensed in certain locations especially in rural

areas that serve mainly low income families. In an effort to close the loopholes in current law yet increase the number of licensed after-school programs and summer camps, a realistic and thorough conversation was had to find a compromise.

The heart of the bill remains the same with the new qualifications below. The four hour loophole exemption is reduced to two hours. Summer camps run as child care facilities may no longer stack consecutive "distinct" weeks.

The new proposed amendment has three big changes – first it creates a narrow exception to allow certain child care facilities to not be licensed; it also requires a minimum level of safety requirements even in unlicensed facilities; and third it makes a handful of changes to current law affecting all licensed facilities (or places that will become licensed) in a safe yet practical manner.

Facilities that charge less than twenty-five dollars per child per month inclusive of any associated fees are not required to be licensed. However they must still comply with several fundamental safety laws related to caregiver requirements, background checks, training and an annual inspection. This exception will allow facilities in rural areas that serve a vast majority of low-income families to stay open. These facilities typically have adult programs overlapping the children's activities. It also recognizes that some facilities are a safer alternative for children to spend their day in an "open gym" rather than in random locations with no supervision.

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The Legislative Conversation

First Steps Public Input: Review

By: Jeff Thordahl

The House Legislative Oversight Committee, Education and Cultural Subcommittee met on March 10 to take testimony from private providers who have worked with State First Steps to set up a 4K program at their centers. Several providers from across the State, including Richland, Orangeburg, Marion, Sumter and other areas presented. Their passion and commitment to the children was evident and powerful. Their stories, at times filled with tears, showed how they were changing

children's lives and their communities through the robust 4k programs facilitated by First Steps and how those programs trickled down to all their children. The private sector more than made the case that our 4K programs are equally successful as the public sector and in many ways are superior to the public sector. Many of these ladies readily admitted they had never presented like this in their lives and were very nervous. However to a person they were outstand-

ing and gave proud recognition to the private sector in a hugely significant way. It appeared the subcommittee gained a whole new appreciation for the role First Steps plays with the private sector. This experience should be encouraging to all providers that their voice can be heard with legislators and even though it might be a little intimidating you must continue to meet with your local legislators.



The Legislative Update (continued)

In order to make licensing by DSS a practical reality there were several changes to the state licensing law that are required to make it work in the real world of unlicensed child care setting.

16 and 17 year old employees (think summer camps) may now count to meet the ratio requirements but they must be continuously supervised by a fully qualified teacher/caregiver and then only two 16/17 years olds per adult caregiver.

A volunteer of at least 16 years of age may assist in a facility but may not be counted in ratios and again no more than two volunteers must be supervised by a fully qualified adult teacher/caregiver.

Training for summer employees or after school employees may be prorated according to DSS policy.

Facilities with more than one location may make employee records available electronically at each site

Education degrees meeting the required educational background for employees has been broadened

Several changes reflecting water used in the facility are changed to make them safe yet practical and not require expensive modifications

So far there has been a wonderful collaboration with the interested parties. With your continued support of this legislation through conversations with your legislators, the children of our state will soon have the advantage of increased safety and wellness though an appropriate level of state oversight.



SCAECE join Women's USC Basketball

From Left, Nancy Pryor, Tami Nix, Kourtne Peoples and John Michael Nix, put on their garnet and black for the USC Women's Basketball Game vs Missouri on Jan 10th to help support the Third Annual Health & Fitness.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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*South Carolina Association of
Early Care and Education*

We're on the web!
www.scaece.com

Mission Statement

*The South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education is a team of professionals who join together to promote **licensed**, privately-owned child care and early education opportunities for the children of our state. We have members (individuals, large and small centers, and schools) in every county. We represent our membership at all state-level legislative functions by employing a professional lobbyist and having a dedicated, hard-working Board of Directors. We have members on many committees in South Carolina which deal with early childhood issues such as the South Carolina Child Care Advisory Board, state & county First Steps Boards, and the First Steps/United Way Quality Task Force.*

Board of Directors

Tami Nix President Archway Academy	Tricia Sheldon Vice President LaPetite Academy	Cindy Walton-McCawley Secretary Adlerian Child Care Center
Margaret-Anne Gaffney Treasurer Anne Pitts CDC	Nancy Pryor Historian Abner Montessori	Marsha Davis Amazing Creations
Sheila King Kids' Stuff Academy	Margaret L. Palmer Cambridge Child Development Center	Carolyn Watt Small World of Easley
Mara Dunkin Hope Academy	Shannon Erickson Hobbit Hill Too	Cheri Smith Big Blue Marble Academy
Amber Bishop Kids R Kids	Melissa Jordan LaPetite Academy	Tammy Compton Miss Tammy's Little Learning Center
Margaret Palmer Cambridge Child Development Center	Ed Brashier FCI Agency Associate Member	Jeff Thordahl SCAECE Lobbyist

SC Association of Early Care and Education

Membership Information

Membership in the SCAECE is the fiscal year September 1 – August 31. According to Association bylaws, members who do not renew their membership by November 1 each year are expired. All new members that join after November 1 must pay membership dues in full for the current year.

Please provide the following information:

Center Name _____
Owner/Director Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____

☐ I wish to receive email information from SCAECE.

License No. _____
Licensed Capacity _____
No. Full-time staff _____
No. Part-time staff _____
For Profit _____ Non-Profit _____
NECPA Accredited: Yes _____ No _____
NAEYC Accredited: Yes _____ No _____
Programs of Distinction: Yes _____ No _____
Other: _____

Dues Information

A. SCAECE Annual Membership Dues (Includes \$55 dues for membership to the National Child Care Association.)

- Licensed capacity of **less than 50 children**..... \$150
- Licensed capacity of **51-150**..... \$250
- Licensed capacity of **more than 150 children**..... \$350

Section A Total: _____

B. Multiple Center Membership\$75

Fee is per additional center.
Number of centers _____ x \$75

Section B Total: _____

C. Business Associate Membership\$250

Membership includes a listing on SCAECE website,
a "Spotlight" business article on website;
type of business/product represented _____

Section C Total: _____

D. Friend of Licensed Child Care Membership\$50

Please use reverse side of form to list contact information.

Section D Total: _____

E. Family Child Care Homes\$25

Section E Total: _____

F. Additions to SCAECE mailing list\$15

Please use reverse side of form to list contact information.
Number of Addresses _____ x \$15

Section F Total: _____

G. Contributions to Lobbyist Fund \$ _____

Section G Total: _____

Check here if you are interested in serving on a SCAECE Committee.

TOTAL DUE: _____

- ☐ Legislative ☐ Public Relations ☐ Membership
☐ Regulatory ☐ Professional Development

Payment Information

Payment may be made by MasterCard, VISA or American Express. Circle one or make check payable to **SCAECE**.

Credit Card No. _____ Expires: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Billing Zip Code for Credit Card: _____



Contributions and membership dues to this organization are not tax deductible as a charitable donation. Eighty percent of contributions and membership dues are attributable to lobbying and are not tax deductible.

Thank you for your membership!

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