



TASKFORCE:

Foundations for Success

Taskforce Meeting

April 30th, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Welcome **10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.**
 Michael Leach, MMFT
 Foundations for Success Taskforce Chair

II. The IECMH Continuum in Action: **10:10 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.**
Higher Education, Consultation Practice, And Outcome Evaluation
 Margaret Bellamy, MSW, LCSW
 PEAR Associate Director
 South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association

Mackenzie Soniak, PsyD
 IECMH Clinical Director
 South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association

III. Break **10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

IV. Panel Discussion: Exploring the Transitional Service Continuum in Early Care and Education Settings - Pathways to Strengthen Comprehensive Support Services **11:00 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.**

Susan Callahan, MSW
 Director, Help Me Grow SC
 South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association

Linda Caraway-Doherty, M.Ed.
 Community Engagement Manager
 South Carolina Child Care Resource & Referral

Melissa Griffin
 Technical Assistance Coordinator
 South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion



Jena Martin, M.Ed.
Senior Director of SPED
Family Connection of South Carolina

Stephanie Donald, M.Ed.
BabyNet/IDEA Part C Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

- V. **Lunch** **12:15 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.**
- VI. **Recommendation Development Discussion** **12:35 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.**
(Large Group)
- VII. **Next Steps & Evaluation** **1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
Taryn Farrell, MPH, Research & Policy Manager
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health

TASKFORCE GUIDING PRINCIPLES				
<p>Consensus: Even though the decision may not be the first choice, everyone can live with and support the decision. Consensus does not mean unanimous agreement.¹</p>	<p>Inclusivity: Effective collaboration requires transparency and inclusiveness, equality among all participants, and active participation from all partners.</p>	<p>Impact: Effective collaboration requires acknowledging capacity and scaling interventions to realistic goals.</p>	<p>Strategic Alignment: Effective collaboration requires all participants to disclose when our own interests are in conflict with those of the taskforce.</p>	<p>Respect: Effective collaboration requires mutual trust and respect for organizational boundaries, continuity in communication and interaction, and a distinction between policy analysis and political commentary.</p>

¹ Consensus may be reached with the understanding that some taskforce members maintained an alternative perspective. These perspectives will be acknowledged, considered, documented, and respected as a central component of the deliberative process.



MEETING OBJECTIVES

Participants will build upon knowledge gleaned from Meetings #1 and #2 on how suspensions and expulsions are handled at the state and local levels across the early care and education (ECE) landscape and the existing structures and practices that are available to prevent the use of exclusionary discipline in South Carolina.

Participants will learn about the infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) continuum of services and how it supports infants, young children, families, and providers.

Participants will learn about strategies for educating students and training the IECMH workforce through higher education and professional development in South Carolina.

Participants will learn about the role of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) in preventing and addressing Pre-K expulsion.

Participants will hear from representatives of key partners supporting early childhood transitions in ECE settings to better understand how service coordination, training, and referral organizations support families, students, providers, and educators during the IDEA Part C to B transition in South Carolina to identify areas of opportunity for policy and programmatic recommendation development.

Participants will continue to build and refine recommendations.