



# POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

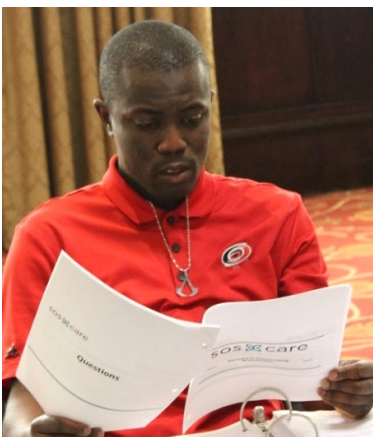
July 2023

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

**MISSION:** *The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*



## Advocacy All Year Long!





## The DD Council Staff is in Full Force!

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council and staff work year-round to ensure our mission is carried out. We are honored to work with our disability partners in supporting programming that improves the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families. Throughout the year, there are numerous programs that our collaborative partners promote to ensure wide-reaching efforts are successful. These partnerships allow for expansion and outreach and allow us to have a broader impact, fostering improvements within the disability community.

Council staff attend as many conferences as possible supporting disability efforts and encouraging new ideas. Council staff also works with other agencies supporting their missions as well. Not only are these agencies a part of the DD Council but provide strength to the disability network and promote positive needed changes. These agencies include the SC Department of Education, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Mental Health, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, SC Department on Aging, SC Department of Health and Human Services, USC, School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources, Disability Rights of South Carolina, and Able South Carolina.

Many disability organizations work assisting the Council through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change, utilizing available grant funds. We are grateful for the work that these agencies do: Able SC, Project



Hope Foundation, SOS Health Care, Inc., Arc of the Midlands, and Center for Disability Resources. There are many organizations we work with such as Brain Injury Association of SC, Voting Coalition, The Palmetto Able Savings Program, and SC Emergency Management Division to ensure people with disabilities are represented and are included in the decision-making process throughout the state. The flyers in this newsletter are only a few examples of the disability and advocacy work being done around the state supported by the DD Council.

**The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council Staff at the 2023 Assistive Technology Expo. (L-R) Cheryl English, Lori Rodgers, William Farris, Valarie Bishop, and Esther Williams.**



**Dori Tempio, Able SC, and Valarie Bishop  
Attended PAALS, (Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services) Graduation**



**SOS Program participate in Panel Discussion for Partners in Policymaking®**

The WINGS program was centered around children with disabilities. The program was designed to assist children with disabilities to be at ease when they are traveling by airplane and to learn about flying.



**Landing at Columbia Metropolitan Airport on May 13, 2023!**  
 3250 Airport Blvd. West Columbia, SC 29170

Wings for All is an airport "rehearsal" program created to alleviate some of the stress individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families experience when traveling by air. It helps to ease a family's concerns regarding how their loved one will react to the different stimuli in the airport (bright lights, noises, TSA screening, crowds, etc.). Wings for All also gives airport, airline, TSA, and other professionals the opportunity to observe, interact, and deliver their services in a structured learning environment. Wings for All is making the skies friendlier for everyone by giving families and aviation professionals the confidence to take to the skies with ease. You can see photos from previous Wings events and learn more about this program by [visiting our website at arcsc.org](http://visiting_our_website_at_arcsc.org).

The Arc of South Carolina, The Arc of the US, Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE), Delta Air Lines, and Enterprise Holdings are happy to announce that **Wings for All will be landing at CAE** on Saturday, May 13th. This event is **free** to families, but registration is required as space is limited.

You can register on our [website](http://website), by visiting [tinyurl.com/WingsCAE](http://tinyurl.com/WingsCAE) or by scanning the code below.

**SUMMER 2023 ONLINE CAMP**

**COMING SOON! SUMMER CAMP STARTS IN JUNE!**

**Daily Activities:**

- ✓ Motor Monday
- ✓ Teaching Tuesday
- ✓ Water Wednesday
- ✓ Out-on-the-Town Thursday
- ✓ Foodie Friday
- ✓ Social Saturday
- ✓ Self-Care Sunday

**Camp Themes:**

- Beach & Swim
- Animals & Pets

**More Info:**

<https://www.bridgedsc.org/summer-2023-camp.html>

@bridgednonprofit

Bridged

**Presented by:**

**Sponsored by:**

WINGS FOR ALL

**Making the Skies Friendlier for Everyone**

THEARC.ORG

WINGS FOR ALL

THEARC.ORG

**The Wings Program**

Wings for Autism/Wings for All is an airport "rehearsal" program created to alleviate some of the stress individuals with autism or other intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families experience when traveling by air.

Created by the Charles River Center, a local chapter of The Arc in Massachusetts, Wings for Autism/Wings for All helps ease family's concerns regarding how their loved one will react to different stimuli in the airport, such as bright lights, noises, TSA security screening, and crowds. This program aims to give solutions to these concerns to make air travel easier.

Wings for Autism/Wings for All also gives airport, airline, TSA professionals, and other personnel the opportunity to observe, interact, and deliver their services in a structured learning environment.

**PARENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE RAVING ABOUT WINGS:**

*"We were able to take my 14-year-old son Nathaniel on an airplane for the first time in 9 years. It was a big family reunion, and many family members had not seen Nathaniel since he was a baby. The Wings for Autism program definitely eased our way. Thank you for this program!"*

*"My family took a flight in February. We would not have attempted it if it was not for the Wings for Autism program."*

*"You have no idea what this event meant to us! It showed us, that YES, we do have a chance to make my daughter's graduation in Connecticut next year! We have some work to do with boarding the plane, but at least we know that was the only issue my son had."*

**During a Wings for Autism/Wings for All event, participants:**

- Check-in to receive their boarding passes,
- Pass through the TSA security checkpoint,
- Wait in the boarding area, and
- Board an aircraft (that does not take off).

The program also features a presentation on the aircraft's features and in-flight safety protocols.

These programs provide respite and teach safety, promote community and inclusion, provide skill building opportunities, and improve independence.



UPSTATE-CAROLINA ADAPTIVE GOLF  
SPONSORED BY



SOUTH CAROLINA  
Developmental Disabilities Council



EVERY 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
COMING UP MAY 22ND  
**VETERAN & COMMUNITY  
ADAPTIVE GOLF CLINIC**  
**REGISTER TODAY**



CONTACT: BRANDON WORLEY  
(864) - 448 - 4997 OR  
UCAGNOW@GMAIL.COM

**TOP GOLF (GREENVILLE)**  
201 CLIFTON CT, GREENVILLE, SC, 29615  
10 AM - 12:00 PM

**SHANKS DRIVING RANGE**  
11506 ANDERSON RD, GREENVILLE, SC, 29611  
4:15 PM - 5:45 PM

*Cost not required, donations are welcomed.*




**Thank You Program Sponsors- 2023**



Programming & Equipment Support




Veteran & Community 4th Monday Monthly Clinics



#GameON Youth Series




**MAKE GOLF YOUR THING**






H M and Pearl Kyle Foundation  
McCormack Family Charitable Fund

Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf provides opportunities for people with disabilities and veterans to engage in golf. The adaptive sports equipment was provided to support event programming and participants.



**FAMILY FUN DAY**

Saturday, May 6, 2023  
1pm - 3pm

Ashland United Methodist Church  
2600 Ashland Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

**“FREE”  
Community  
Event**

Must Register to Attend:  
[www.victoriasplaceinc.com](http://www.victoriasplaceinc.com)

FOOD & GAMES      STORYTIME  
LIVE MUSIC          PAINTING  
SENSORY TABLES    PRIZES  
**BUILD A BEAR & STUFFED ANIMALS**



Victoria’s Place provides an array of events for the entire family. The Build A Bear & Stuffed Animals were a highlight. Each participant was able to build and adopt their own pet.



Sponsored by Victoria’s Place and  
SC Developmental Disabilities Council  
For More Information Contact:  
Melanie Ray, Founder (803) 606-3042








## Victoria's Place Family Fun Day!

DD Council Program Manager, Lori Rodgers attended The Family Fun Day with her children. She said they had such a good time that it was hard to get them to leave. The event included games, face painting, slime, learning how to plant flowers, fire truck tour, painting and much more.



Eli, Emma, Abby...enjoying the day



Abby is planting and painting



**Victoria's Place Family Day was a huge success!**

Eli is loving the slime....



# Assistive Technology Expo

In March 2023, Center for Disability Resources hosted their 30th expo at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. They are already planning for 2024 and another full day of exhibits and workshops showcasing assistive technology for people with a wide range of disabilities.

## About the Expo

The Assistive Technology Expo is an annual event that features an exhibit hall for demonstrations and information about the latest products and services. The South Carolina Assistive Technology program presents a variety of workshops which address pressing disability issues. Some workshops allow participants to earn free continuing education credits at the Expo. This year's AT EXPO recorded 887 participants.





## Bountiful Harvest Event

Lexington's Bountiful Harvest event was a day of giving and receiving and neighbor helping neighbor! Participants enjoyed a meal with neighbors, learned about local resources, and had fun connecting with their community. Over 250 boxes of Greg's Groceries were available while supplies lasted. The event was hosted by Lexington Police Department in partnership with West Columbia Police Department, Cayce Police Department, Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Uplift Lexington County, Si Se Puede, and Serve & Connect. The DD Council was a vendor in support of their disability efforts to increase information about available resources.





# Community Resource Fair

The Community Resource Fair was hosted by Lexington and Richland School District Five at Irmo High School. The free event was open to all families in the district and featured information about valuable resources and services available for families of students with special needs. The fair was facilitated by the Office of Special Services. More than 30 different organizations were at the event to help share tools and resources.



“We believe this Community Resource Fair will help us educate and inform our families and bridge the gap between school, home, and community,” Director of Special Services Dr. Angie Slatton said. “This educational event hopes to connect our families with tools they need to help them, and their children succeed in partnership with District Five.”







## North East Columbia Empowerment Coalition

The North East Columbia Empowerment Coalition is a service organization in the Northeast Columbia area. The mission of NECEC is to empower all sectors of the community through civic action and engagement. The first-time event focused on sharing information and resources with individuals with disabilities and their families. There were only a few vendors, but the impact was significant, reaching about 100-130 individuals. Able SC, Vocational Rehabilitation, and DD Council were among the disability agencies represented. DD Council Program Assistant,

William “Will” Farrior was able to share information about Partners in Policymaking, EQUIP, IMPACT, YLF, and the Palmetto Able Savings Plan. Every participant received a bag of groceries as well as light refreshments.



**Columbia Area Speech Pathologist offers support to individuals and families regarding IEP and available services**

**Northeast Columbia Empowerment Coalition Team**





# South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA)

SC.GOV (.gov)  
<https://aging.sc.gov>

The South Carolina Department on Aging enhances quality of life for seniors in our state by connecting them with services that help them live independently. They provide support and resources for programs that assist aging citizens and adults with disabilities to live independently. Senior Day was held at the State Fair Grounds and hosted over 800 seniors. There were over 40 agencies and organizations, included with DD Council, sharing information and available resources. The event was hosted by local personality Curtis Wilson. Seniors were provided lunch, and many participated in games and competed for prizes.





## Independence, My Choice, My Life Conference



“Independence: My Choices, My Life” Conference was held at the Cooperative Conference Center. Session topics included, “Saving for Your Future,” “Disability Baggage,” and “Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Each Resident.” 141 people attended the conference.



**I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C Self-Advocate of the Year, FELICIA PENNIE**





## Disability Advocacy Day

# #DisabilityAdvocacyDaySC

## March 1, 2023



Disability Advocacy Day is organized by advocacy organizations across the state to educate our legislators about the lives, challenges, and needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. Disability Advocacy Day is held annually on the first Wednesday of March. The event is presented by the South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations, which is a coalition of agencies whose aim is to assure self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with severe lifelong disabilities in all aspects of society.



Disability Advocacy Day takes place on the grounds of the South Carolina State House. Disability Advocacy Day provides the opportunity for self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to come together to walk, rally, gather, and give speeches about the

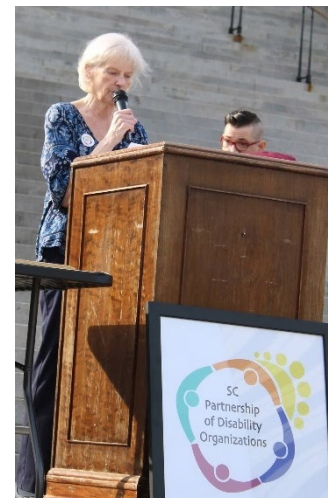
needs in the disability community. Some of the presentations include transportation, affordable housing, and home & community-based services. The overall goal of disability advocacy day, is to make sure that lawmakers understand our issues, needs, and concerns across the state of South Carolina and the importance of inclusion when making decisions.

The day begins with events that revolve around bringing self-advocates, state and local legislators, and representatives together and self-advocates sharing their stories. This is to help individuals without disabilities begin to understand the need and cost of assistive medical devices, transportation, and housing, as well as other concerns of the disability community. This year's theme, "*Unite to Impact Change*" celebrates the contributions made by people of all abilities.



**State Treasurer, Curtis Loftis**  
Speaks with participants at  
Disability Advocacy Day

**Valarie Bishop,**  
Executive Director of  
DD Council reads the  
Governor's Proclamation







The Brain Injury Association of South Carolina celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 9, 2023. A press conference was held at the SC State House highlighting the work being done around the state. This year, the conference will be held in-person July 28, 2023, at the Conference Center. The Brain Injury Association of South Carolina is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has been helping individuals with brain injuries and their families and caregivers since 1998. They work to educate healthcare providers, coaches, athletes, teachers, law enforcement, legislators, and the military about brain injury and the impact brain injury has on individuals and their families.

There are nearly 175,000 South Carolinians living with a disability from a brain injury. The Brain Injury Association of SC (BIASC) has been helping brain injury survivors and their families navigate a complicated health care system and advocate for their disability access and rights since 1998.



**Former DD Council Member Phil Clarkson continues to advocate on behalf of the Brain Injury Association**



**Joyce Davis, Executive Director for SC Brain Injury Association**



**Sheldon Herring, Former BILC Chair**



**Lucky Jollye, BIA Board Member**



## DD Network News

The DD Network in South Carolina is made up of the Center for Disability Resources, Disability Rights South Carolina and the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. We are all created in public law, and work together as partners and collaborators on many projects impacting individuals in South Carolina. Many of our recent projects are mentioned below. We are thankful for wonderful partners and the ability to view systems issues and set up action plans that will make improvements. Thank you, Beth Franco and David Rotholz, for being great partners and working alongside the DD Council.

### Disability Rights South Carolina



DRSC is the Protection and Advocacy system (P&A) and the Client Assistance Program (CAP) for South Carolina. We are here to help people with disabilities understand and defend their rights. We provide a variety of services to include client assistance, training, abuse & neglect investigation, legal assistance, and advocacy for change.

P&As are the only legally based advocacy organization established by Congress to protect the rights of all individuals with disabilities. As part of that mandate, there is a P&A agency in every state and U.S. territory, working to provide legal protection and advocacy services for people with disabilities.

DRSC works collaboratively with the SC Developmental Disability Council, University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and other disability advocacy organizations on issues impacting people with disabilities. Our efforts include outreach efforts on COVID vaccines, educating lawmakers on subminimum wage and Employment First, and a report on expanding home and community-based services with recommendations to create a SC Olmstead Plan.

If you, or someone you know has been denied services or whose rights have been violated due to a disability, DRSC may be able to help. Areas where we can help include education, employment, community integration, healthcare, and Medicaid, housing, assistive technology, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

#### How We Can Help

As the legal advocacy organization in South Carolina that Represents the rights of individuals with disabilities, we Can serve individuals and families in a number of ways.

These are some examples of the areas we focus on.

- Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation
- Assistive Technology
- Community Integration
- Employment Opportunities
- Education Access
- Housing
- Healthcare & Social Security
- Transportation
- Voter Participation



## Center for Disability Resources



Update from Center for Disability Resources (UCEDD and LEND)

Some of the recent CDR efforts include:

The Assistive Technology EXPO. Held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, this was a resounding success and a great return to the in-person conference. As the largest disability-related event in South Carolina, the 2023 AT EXPO had over 800 people attend and participate in the many course offerings and the EXPO exhibits. Thank you to the DD Council for its sponsorship and participation.

The Nurturing Developing Minds conference was held in Greenville with national, local and regional presenters and attendees. This is also the SC LEND conference and included multiple presentations by SC LEND trainees. Dr. Desmond Kelly, MD was honored for his central role in developing the conference, as original co-director of SC LEND and his many significant contributions as a developmental-behavioral pediatrician. Both the CDR and DD Council were sponsors of the event.

CDR, the DD Council and Disability Rights SC are active members of the newly formed (by Able SC) SC Disability Public Health Taskforce. This is in follow up to the SC Disability Vaccine Network that has been a huge success providing COVID-19 vaccine information and access to people in South Carolina with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

One of the roles of the UCEDD (CDR) is to “educate” legislators on disability-related issues. The CDR Director did this recently with SC Senators and the Washington DC staff of Senator Lindsey Graham. Dr. Rotholz provided testimony to the SC Senate Subcommittee that was considering a bill to make SC DDSN a cabinet agency that reports to the Governor instead of having a commission that oversees the agency. That bill has now passed the SC Senate and is under consideration in the SC House. The director of Disability Rights SC and of Able SC provided testimony in that hearing as well. That same week Dr. Rotholz met (via zoom) with staff for Senator Lindsey Graham to provide information about the CDR UCEDD and SC LEND programs. Staff from AUCD were in that meeting as well to lobby for additional funding for the UCEDD and LEND programs across the nation.



Lori Rodgers, SC DD Council, Tammy Wallace, Center for Disability Resources, Valarie Bishop, SC DD Council, and Dori Tempio, Able SC were present for the renovated Assistive Technology Resource Room reveal.



# South Carolina Partners in Policymaking

A leadership program for adults living with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities



## You're invited to make a difference.

The **South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council** invites you to join **Partners in Policymaking**<sup>®</sup>, a leadership program for adults living with disabilities and the parents of children living with disabilities.

Participants meet in Columbia for **five monthly two-day sessions** to receive information, training and resources about local, state and national issues that affect people living with disabilities. Sessions begin at noon on Fridays and conclude by 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Participants are expected to attend all sessions.

**Sessions take place** Oct. 6-7, 2023; Nov. 3-4, 2023; Jan. 12-13, 2024; Feb. 9-10, 2024 and March 8-9, 2024.

**Lodging and meals are provided.** Participants receive lunch, snacks and dinner on Fridays as well as breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturdays.

**Participants are reimbursed** for travel costs to and from Columbia. Attendant support and respite reimbursement are provided for participants who meet eligibility requirements.

The deadline to apply for **Partners in Policymaking**<sup>®</sup> is Aug. 15, 2023.



**Together we can.**

**For detailed information  
and to apply:**

803-734-0465

[scddc.sc.gov/managesites/  
prd/scddc/resources.html](https://scddc.sc.gov/managesites/prd/scddc/resources.html)





# South Carolina PARTNERS in POLICYMAKING



**Class 23 is Complete.** The innovative leadership program teaches people with disabilities and the parents of young children with disabilities to become agents of long-term change, active partners with policymakers who make decisions which shape future change.



Jeff Lafond engrossed in class



Luke McCurry receives his graduation Certificate



Wy'Key McGill joyful as he learns



Matthew Smith with Karen Crider presented the Palmetto Able Savings Program to Partners. It was a double treat as Matthew was a part of the class.



Graduates and presenters share a smile!





## COVID-19 FUNDING REPORT SUMMARY

The SC DD Council, along with our disability network partners; Able SC, Disability Rights SC, University Center for Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) @ UofSC School of Medicine, (Supplemental Partners) Accessibility, Walton Options for Independent Living and Family Connection of SC were able to utilize COVID-19 Funds to expand vaccine access for people with disabilities. This expansion process included:

- Education regarding the importance of receiving the vaccine,
- identifying people unable to independently travel to a vaccination site,
- providing technical assistance to local health departments or other entities on vaccine accessibility,
- helping with scheduling vaccine appoints, arranging or providing accessible transportation,
- providing companion/personal support, sending reminders to people regarding their second vaccination appointment, if needed

The total number of people with disabilities vaccinated as a result of implementing one more of the services activities was **451**. There were also 892 additional people vaccinated as a result of implementing one of more of these service activities.

A total of **20,618,619** other people (including family members, direct support providers/workers, personal care attendants, and other support providers) were reached through education activities. Over **6,000** were people with developmental disabilities.

The DD Council provided test kits to participants at every conference and organization we worked with.





## William “Will” Farrior, Self-Advocate of the Year!

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

#### William “Will” Farrior III

*Program Assistant, SC Developmental Disabilities Council*

*Will excels in his work at the DD Council, always striving to do his best to help the people served achieve their best. He lives the mission of the DD Council and is a shining example of Admin’s Organizational Values. In his role providing guidance to our leadership programs, he thrives in helping people with disabilities live their best lives. He has received awards for his self-advocacy work and is an asset to the DD Council program.*

**Valarie Bishop**

*Director Developmental Disabilities Council,  
Office of Executive Policy and Programs*

**admin**



Will was featured in the “Employee Spotlight” Newsletter. He is enthusiastic and loves what he does.



**Ms. Gail Farrior,  
Will’s mother is  
truly proud!**



**Supervisor,  
Lori Rodgers  
and Executive  
Director, Valarie  
Bishop, share in his  
joy!**

## SC DD Council Welcomes our newest Council Member



We are excited to have Chaqueta Stuckey, who lives in Florence, SC, join the DD Council. Chaqueta is a 2017 graduate of Partners in Policymaking® and a member of I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. She is an alternate for the National Advisory Committee and SABE (Self-Advocate Becoming Empowered) where she was elected the Co-Director. Chaqueta just returned from our Nation’s Capital in Washington, D.C., where she did a press release on HCBS (Home Community Based Services).

She has always advocated for herself and others and understands the challenges and barriers the disability community face on a daily basis. She is somewhat quiet, until she begins to advocate. Her voice is soft, yet powerful. She is shy yet determined and highly self-motivated. Chaqueta lives independently and is active in her community. She supports other self-advocates and her co-workers at the Florence County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. She is also employed with Carver Elementary School and a member of “Our Voices Count Too”.

**Welcome to the SC DD Council Chaqueta!**

**Ms. Chaqueta Stuckey,  
DD Council Member**



## The SC DD Council welcomes Mr. Wesley Woodman, our new Grants Administrator.



**Wesley "Wes" Woodman  
Grants Administrator**

While Wes is relatively new to the State of South Carolina, he brings almost 20 years of experience as a Compliance Analyst and as a Grants Coordinator with the Federally funded programs of the FCC and FEMA to his new position with the DDC.

Wes is somewhat modest, but masterful in the office, he is funny and quick-witted and methodical. He has made many positive changes to the office, and we are so glad to have his fresh eyes and shining personality.

## SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

**Ms. Margaret Alewine  
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
Ms. Anna Bleasdale  
Mrs. Trayci Brazell  
Dr. Harley T. Davis  
Ms. Beth Franco  
Mrs. Connie Gallman  
Mr. John Green**

**Mr. Demetrius Henderson  
Mrs. Amy Hibbs  
Mrs. Melissa Hunt  
Mr. Bernard Johnson  
Ms. Megan Johnson  
Mr. Roger Kuperman  
Mr. Derrick Means  
Ms. Kristi Moore**

**Dr. David Rotholz  
Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin  
Ms. Andrea Sinkler-Slaughter  
Mrs. Elizabeth Smithson  
Ms. Chaqueta Stuckey  
Mrs. Kimberly Tissot  
Dr. Kim Watkins  
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Lori Rodgers, Program Manager  
Wesley Woodman, Grants Administrator  
Cheryl English, Program Coordinator  
William Farrior, Program Assistant  
Esther Williams, Administrative Specialist**

For program funding details, please visit <https://www.scdde.state.sc.us/about.html>