



South Carolina Association of Early Care & Education NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022 Edition

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Ask The Board We want to hear from you!

Do you have a question, concern, or suggestion that the Board of Directors can help you with? Go to www.scaece.com and click on "Ask The Board".



Message from the President & Meet Your 2022-2023 Board of Directors

SCAECE: Join me as we kick off a new year with the South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education. The association has a long history of keeping our hands on the pulse of early care and education issues in our state as it relates to licensed childcare. This year will not be different as our state agencies and providers return to normal operations and ramp up new systems. As a provider of 37 years, I know you are busy running your own centers, staffing, and providing the best possible programs and services for the children in our centers. SCAECE is there for you with our own lobbyist in Columbia keeping an eye on state issues. As a member benefit you get National Membership in the NCCA – National Child Care Association. There is strength in numbers and your membership is important in the work we do for our industry. Our SCAECE Annual conference is featuring an awesome Keynote speaker addressing mental health issues. This is an important topic for our leaders and teachers as they provide the enriching learning environments our students need. It is time for teachers to learn how to take care of themselves and find time for them. Dr. John Deloney will bring down the house! Everyone will leave with some valuable nuggets to take with them and use to improve something in their own life. I am passionate about what we do, and I am passionate about the South Carolina Association for Early Care and Education! Together Everyone Accomplishes More!! **Join the SCAECE TEAM!**

Looking forward to the best year ever! **Tami Nix, SCAECE President**

Officers



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Archway
Academy



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**Associate Member
Ed Brashier**
FCI Agency

**Lobbyist
Jeff Thordahl**
Copper Dome Strategies



2023 Annual Conference



Keynote Speaker

Dr. John Delony

Presenting

Mental Health & Wellness—Bricks In Your Backpack

SATURDAY

February 25, 2023

6 Training Hours

Keynote Speaker

8:30am – 9:30am

Breakouts

9:45am – 3:30pm

Blood Borne Pathogens

11:45am – 12:45pm



Dr. John Delony is a bestselling author, mental health expert, and host of The Dr. John Delony Show. He has two PhDs and over two decades of experience in counseling, crisis response, and higher education. John's goal is to help you navigate tough decisions, improve your relationships, and believe you're worthy of being well.

Follow John on social media @johndelony or tune in to The Dr. John Delony Show on podcast or YouTube.



Where:

The Medallion Center
7309 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209

Registration is required!

For more information visit www.SCAECE.com
or contact

cwaldrup@pmpamc.com

SCAECE Legislative TEAM & Update



Jeffrey N. (Jeff) Thordahl
Lobbyist, Copper Done

After the November Elections the House will meet on December 6 and 7 for their Organizational Session. The Ways and Means Committee will elect a new Chairman to replace Murrell Smith who was elected last session as the new House Speaker. The House Education Committee will also elect a new Chair to replace Rita Allison who was defeated in the June primary. Davey Hiott from Pickens was recently elected as the new House Majority Leader to replace Gary Simrill who did not seek re-election.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

State Budget

The Board of Economic Advisors closed the books on FY21-22 with an \$880 million surplus – revenues grew 23% last year – the highest ever. Although the state's economists continue to expect a drop in the historic revenue



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growth we have been experiencing, FY 23 first quarter General Fund Revenue grew by 12.5% over the previous fiscal year and is \$457 million above the May forecast. The current General Fund Budget is \$15 billion – total state budget with fines, fees, federal and other funds is \$31 billion.

We expect a number of issues carried over from the last session to again be addressed and some new items including:

Abortion – whether or not to strengthen the current “Fetal Heartbeat” law that is currently being challenged in court.

DHEC restructuring. Legislation to split the Department of Health and Environmental (DHEC) into two separate entities passed the Senate last year but never made it to committee in the House. A priority of Senate Finance Chairman Harvey Peeler.

"Compassionate Care Act" - Medical Marijuana – finally passed the Senate last year after 7 years of pushing by Sen. Tom Davis. Never made



Luther P. (Trey) Byars III
Lobbyist, Copper Done

it out of House committee.

Certificate of Need (CON) - eliminate or reform the Certificate of Need (CON) requirements relating to the licensure of health care facilities has been debated for the past several years. Passed the Senate last year but not the House.

Utilities – The House Speaker created the Economic Development and Utility Modernization Ad Hoc Committee to study utility modernization, workforce development, and infrastructure investment designed to attract new industries to the state. Expect to see legislation introduced from the work of this committee





Hello to the Members of the South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education!

As the Director of the National Child Care Association (NCCA), I would like to thank you for your partnership in our mission to promote the success of licensed providers in quality early care and education, including the provision of professional development, advocacy, and community engagement. Never in the history of licensed child care has it been more important for the ESSENTIAL individuals of our nation's child care industry to come together and speak in a raised and unified voice. Like many of you, I have been a part of this underappreciated, essential business for over 40 years. **It is so unfortunate that it took a pandemic to draw attention to just how critical having accessible, affordable, and equitable child care is to the:**

PARENTS of children who need to work;
CHILDREN who need a safe and nurturing space to grow and learn;
EMPLOYERS who rely on dependable employees;
US ECONOMY in order to thrive.

In spite of the vitality of the child care industry, the current child care infrastructure continues to demand change:

Roughly 1 in 3 working parents in the US are using informal child care arrangements (relatives, friends, neighbors or alter their work schedules so one parent can be home).

Cost and accessibility for families are two of the top reasons why working parents have to count on informal versus formal child care arrangements. This is especially true for parents with multiple children.

Overall, only 1 in 7 children that currently qualify for CCDBG funding actually have access to it.

51% of ALL children ages 0-6 live in communities that are considered child care deserts (more children than licensed child care spaces available).

The child care workforce is in crisis due to low wages, lack of benefits, and working conditions.

Licensed child care centers (8,889) and licensed homes (6,957) closed their doors forever between December 2019 and March 2022.

More women (approximately 2M) have dropped out of the work place between 2019 and 2021, many due to child care challenges.

As one of the only national child care organizations solely dedicated to representing privately owned licensed child care centers, we know how important it is to stay involved and keep you informed of what is happening in our national legislation. Without YOU the issues facing working families, employers, and the US economy will only get worse. **For this reason, we work on your behalf to achieve the following:**

Seek and maintain working partnerships with like-minded national advocacy organizations.

Inform and educate providers on how and when to participate in a national advocacy effort—YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Connecting state organizations and advocates with one another for the purpose of sharing successes and getting help in overcoming political obstacles on the state and local level.

Providing business affiliate member benefits for professional development and services that help your child care business thrive.

Providing a media presence that represents the people of this industry as essential, committed early care and education professionals.

If you would like to know more and stay well informed of the NCCA's ongoing efforts and benefits, we would love to add you to our group email list. As part of the SCAECE, you are automatically a member of the NCCA. Please use the link [here](#) to subscribe to our newsletter and advocacy alerts. You can also learn more about our national member benefits [here](#). Please let us know how we can best serve you as a member of the NCCA!

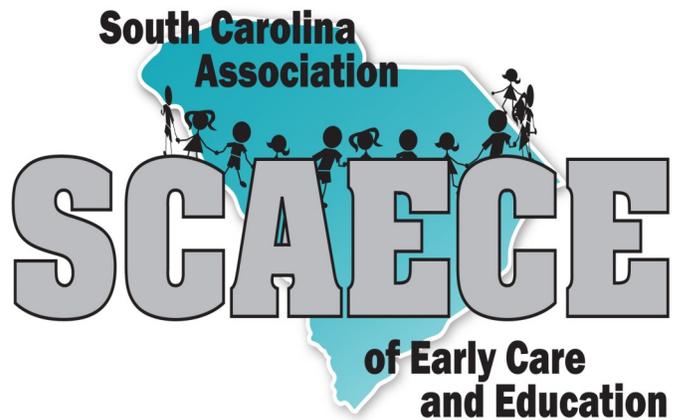
Cindy Lehnhoff, Director of the NCCA, Cell #: 405-922-2140, Email: clehnhoff@necpa.net

Thanks to our 2022-2023 Associate Members

FCI Agency	The Bancorp Bank	First Casualty Insurance Group
Interstate Transportation Equipment	Kaplan Early Learning Company	Lakeshore Learning
SC First Steps 4K	School Investment Properties, Inc.	Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself. Chinese Proverb

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*.



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