



South Carolina Department of
**CHILDREN'S
 ADVOCACY**
 Advocacy. Accountability. Service.

MONTHLY UPDATE

Department of Children's Advocacy Monthly Update
Connecting with and updating our community



Governor Henry McMaster was joined on September 9, 2021 by Lieutenant Governor Pamela S. Evette, members of the General Assembly, and child advocacy leaders for a ceremonial bill signing of S.229, the Child Abuse Response Protocol Act. The act establishes a statewide protocol to effectively and efficiently respond to child abuse cases. Pictured left to right are: SCDSS Director Mike Leach; Dr. Kay Phillips, Ph.D., LISW; State Child Advocate Amanda Whittle; S.C. Network of Children's Advocacy Centers Executive Director Tom Knapp; Governor Henry D. McMaster; Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette; and SLED Lieutenant Trista Baird.

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Looking Back on September: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month



FASD Awareness Month is an expansion of FASD Awareness Day that has been held each year on September 9th since 1999. People all around the world gather for events to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy and the challenges individuals and families can face who are living with FASDs. The first FASD Day was celebrated on 9/9/99. This day was chosen so that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy, the safest option is to abstain from alcohol.

#NoneForNine

Learn more here: [S.C. FASD Collaboration Board.](#)

National Suicide Prevention Month



[#BeThe1To](#) is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's message for National Suicide Prevention Month *and beyond*, which helps spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide. The Lifeline network and its partners are working to change the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention, to actions that can promote healing, help and give hope.

[#BeTheOneToAsk](#)

✔

Find out why this can save a life at
www.BeThe1To.com

If you're struggling, call the Lifeline at
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Director Whittle Presents DCA's Legislative Priorities to Governor McMaster During September Cabinet Meeting



DSS's Director of Communications and External Affairs, Connelly-Anne Ragley, looks on as DCA Director Amanda Whittle presents the Department of Children's Advocacy's top three priorities for the upcoming legislative session during Governor McMaster's Cabinet Meeting on September 15, 2021. Photo Source: [SCETV](#)

During Governor McMaster's September 2021 Cabinet meeting, Department of Children's Advocacy (DCA) Director Amanda Whittle outlined DCA's three priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The first priority is the Agency's FY23 budget submission which includes requests for recurring and non-recurring state appropriations for Foster Care Review Board, Continuum of Care and the Investigations Unit. The Investigations Unit has responded to more than 8000 calls through the complaint line and has created and published an online resource library. During the 90 days prior to the meeting, Director Whittle and Deputy Kayla Capps spent approximately 200 combined hours conducting 27 site visits in addition to being involved with individual case staffings and court hearings regarding justice-involved youth and victims of human trafficking. The Investigations Unit budget requests align with building capacity for this work.

The second priority concerns pending and proposed legislation. DCA provided testimony regarding the Student ID Suicide Prevention Act and the Child Abuse Response Protocol, both of which were signed into law by Governor McMaster this year. In addition to other statutory modifications, DCA plans to continue to provide testimony regarding bills that will positively impact the services provided by child-serving agencies, and the legislative priorities in this area are the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, Extension of Foster Care Services, and Kinship Care.

The third priority concerns DCA's efforts to work with DHHS, DAODAS, DSS, DJJ and DMH to identify coordinated approaches to improving South Carolina's system of care. Director Whittle particularly expressed her appreciation for DHHS Director Robby Kerr and the cross-agency collaboration to support guaranteed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) access for seriously ill, justice-involved youth as well as a rate review and efforts to strengthen the array of intensive, community-based services for children.



Register Now for Safe Sleep Summit Meetings

OCTOBER IS SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH

Place babies

A

ALONE

B

on their
BACK

C

and in a
CRIB



Approximately 3500 infants die in the United States each year due to sleep-related issues. In South Carolina, unsafe sleep is the leading cause of infant death after the first month of life based on SCDHEC data. The Safe Sleep Initiative (SSI) was started in April 2017 after stakeholders within the SC Birth Outcomes Initiative identified a statewide need for consistent messaging, awareness, education and collaboration around infant safe sleep. Collaboratively, a decision was made to launch a large-scale Safe Sleep Summit in South Carolina in October of 2021. Courses will be held the second Tuesday of each month from 9:00 am – 10:30 am via WebEx.

For safe sleep, infants should be placed alone, on their back, and in a crib. Learn more [here](#).

Register at:
www.upstateahec.org
Click the CE Tab >
Click Live Courses >
Click October.

All sessions of the summit are being administered free of charge, but registration is required.



South Carolina Birth Outcomes Safe Sleep Initiative 2021 Safe Sleep Summit

To promote the South Carolina
Safe Sleep Campaign

The Safe Sleep Initiative (SSI) was started in April 2017 after stakeholders within the SC Birth Outcomes Initiative identified a statewide need for consistent messaging, awareness, education and collaboration around infant safe sleep.

Courses will be held the second Tuesday of each month from 9:00 am – 10:30 am via WebEx.

Opportunities to Serve with FCRB State Board



The State Board of the Foster Care Review Board consists of seven (7) members, all of whom must be past or present members of local review boards. State Board members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each State Board member represents his or her Congressional District and serves four (4)-year terms. All of the terms for the State Board positions are expired at this time, and the Governor's office has requested letters and resumes from individuals who are interested in being considered by Governor McMaster for appointment or re-appointment.



If you are interested in serving on the State Board for your Congressional District, please prepare a letter addressed to Governor Henry McMaster and your resume. If you know someone who is a past review board member who is interested in serving on the State Board, please share this message with them.



Your letter must be addressed to Governor Henry McMaster and include the following:



- Your name;
- Your address;
- Your Congressional District;
- The review board for which you currently serve or have served in the past and how long you have served;
- Why you want to be appointed to serve on the State Board;
- What you are able to contribute to the State Board;
- Any other relevant information that you would like the Governor to know when considering your request for appointment to the State Board; and
- Your resume should be attached to the letter.



- Once you have completed your letter and resume:
- Send both your letter and your resume to Kristy Quattrone, Director of Boards and Commissions in the Governor's office, via email to kquattrone@governor.sc.gov.
 - Include "FCRB State Board Appointment" in the subject line of your email to Ms. Quattrone.

***The deadline for you to submit your letter and resume is
Wednesday, October 6, 2021.***

Opportunities to Serve Foster Children and Families in Your Community

The Foster Care Review Board consists of FCRB staff with the Department of Children's Advocacy, a State Board, and forty-five (45) active review boards which are delineated by judicial circuit. Each review board has five (5) members, and the State Board has seven (7) members. Our local review boards currently have fifty-six (56) vacancies as follows:



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Aiken (1) | Kershaw (1) |
| Bamberg (1) | Lancaster (1) |
| Barnwell (1) | Laurens (4) |
| Berkeley (1) | Lee (1) |
| Charleston (10) | Marlboro (1) |
| Chesterfield (1) | Newberry (2) |
| Darlington (2) | Oconee (2) |
| Dillon (1) | Orangeburg (1) |
| Dorchester (1) | Pickens (3) |
| Edgefield (1) | Richland (3) |
| Fairfield (1) | Spartanburg (2) |
| Florence (3) | Sumter (1) |
| Greenville (2) | Union (2) |
| Hampton (1) | Williamsburg (1) |
| Jasper (1) | York (3) |

The FCRB reviews the cases of children who are in foster care for four months or longer and provides recommendations regarding permanency and areas of concern to the Family Court. Review board members are nominated by their local Legislative Delegations and appointed by the Governor.

For more information about the Foster Care Review Board, [click here](#). If you are interested in becoming appointed to your local foster care review board, please contact us at communications@childadvocate.sc.gov or contact your [local legislative delegation](#).

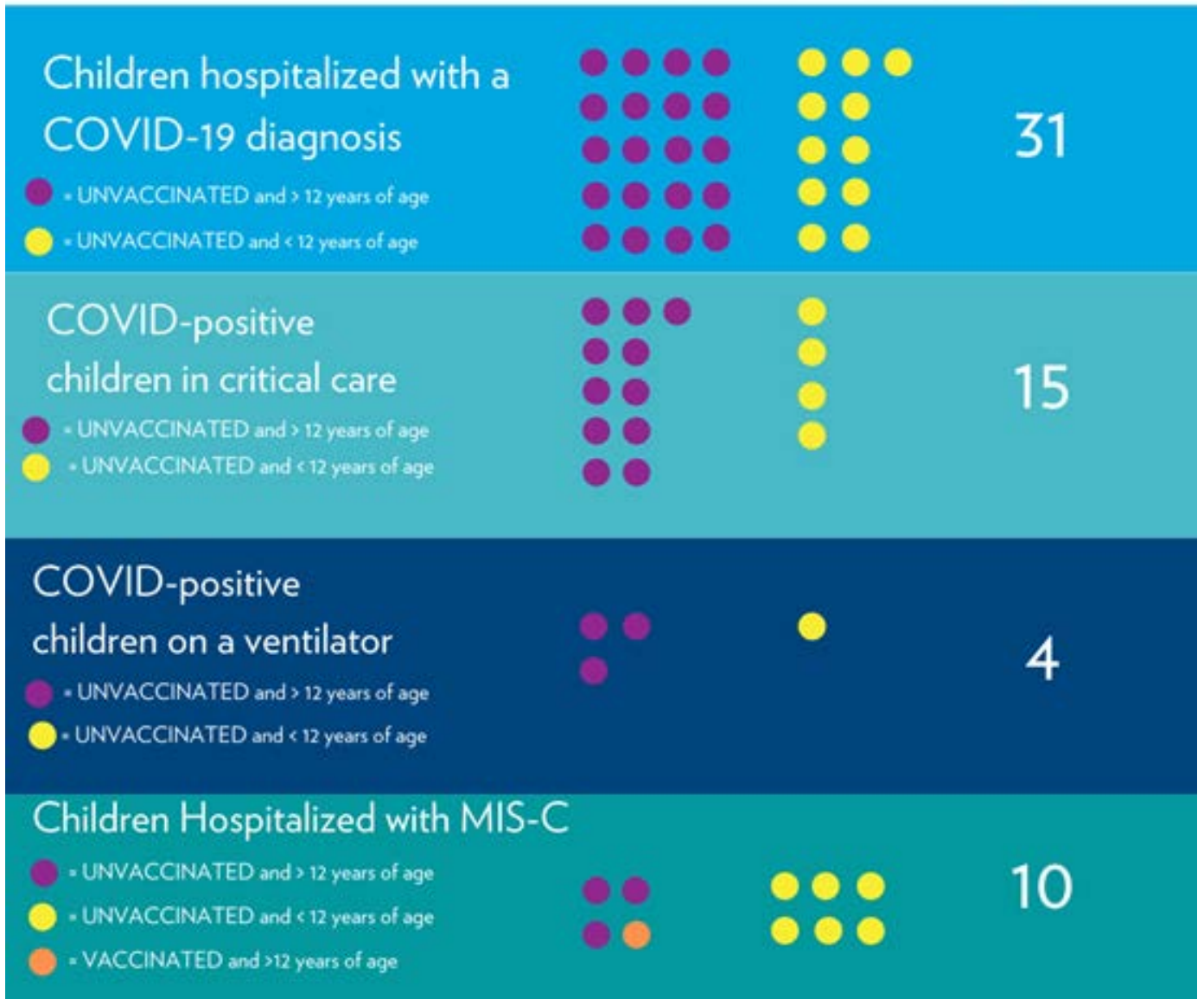


Thank you
TO BRITTANY ROBERTS

Shout out to **Brittany Roberts** for creating the Foster Care Review Board design that is featured in this edition of our partner update. Brittany is a law student at the University of South Carolina School of Law and is a Legal Extern with the Department of Children's Advocacy for the Fall 2021 semester. Thank you to Brittany for taking the initiative to create a new image to accompany our FCRB communication. **We love it!**

S.C. Children’s Hospital Collaborative Daily COVID 19 Report

COVID-19 Update
Friday, October 1, 2021



October 1, 2021	Hospitals
Total # of Children on ECMO [Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation – heart/lung life support machine]	1
Total # of Children Holding in Emergency Department	6
% of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Beds Occupied	33% - 93% full
% of Staffed Beds Occupied	84% - 98% full

See next page for data sources

S.C. Children’s Hospital Collaborative Data Sources

For more information about the data provided by the S.C. Children’s Hospital Collaborative, please contact:

Ms. Maggie Cash, Executive Director
 South Carolina Children’s Hospital Collaborative
 Email: maggie@scchildrenshospitals.org, Cell: 843-270-0533

For additional data specific to a children’s hospital, contact:

McLeod Children’s Hospital:

Ms. Nicky Littlejohn, NLittlejohn@mcleodhealth.org, (843) 777-8397

MUSC:

Ms. Heather Woolwine, WoolwinH@musc.edu, (843) 792-7669

Prisma Health–Midlands:

Ms. Tammie Epps, Tammie.Epps@prismahealth.org, (803) 318-1598

Prisma Health–Upstate:

Ms. Sandy Dees, Sandy.Dees@prismahealth.org, (864) 797-7557

Resources on MIS-C:

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mis/mis-c.html>

HealthyChildren.org

(American Academy of Pediatrics):

https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/covid_inflammatory_condition.aspx

SC DHEC:

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/multisystem-inflammatory-syndrome-children-mis-c>
 (Includes some data)

EVERYONE 12+ IS NOW ELIGIBLE!

Everyone 12 and older in SC is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine! Get your vaccine ASAP.

THE COVID-19 **VACCINE**



Don't let your guard down against COVID-19.



Keep social distancing



Wear a mask



Wash your hands often



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