

Food Security Council

January 22, 2024

Minutes

Welcome

Dr. Edward Simmer

- Dr. Edward Simmer, director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and chair of the Food Security Council (Council), welcomed members of the Council and the public. He reminded individuals that the meeting would be recorded. A recording of the meeting is available at scdhec.gov/fsc.
- Council members in attendance included:
 - Dr. Ed Simmer, Council Chair
 - Dr. Rhea Bentley, South Carolina State University-Public Service Activities
 - Virgie Chambers, South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)
 - Amber Gillum, South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS)
 - Rowan Goodrich, South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA)
 - Dr. Tarana Khan, Clemson University-Public Service Activities
 - Dr. Kevin Wessinger, South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
 - Bentley White, DHEC
 - Chris Whitmire, South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA)

Progress Update

Dr. Edward Simmer

- Dr. Simmer gave an update on the progress of the Council and its work to finalize recommendations and draft a report to be presented to the General Assembly. He indicated the Council is on track to finalize and submit a report before the required deadline.

Review of + Vote on Final Report

All

- Council members were provided copies of the final draft report. DHEC staff presented amendments made to the draft report based on Council feedback.
- A vote was taken to approve the report as final and to approve for submission to the General Assembly. The Council voted unanimously to approve the report and submit it to the General Assembly.

Wrap-up + Next Steps

All

- Dr. Simmer indicated the report will be submitted to the General Assembly in the coming days. He also indicated a copy would be sent to each Council member's agency director.
- Upon submission of the report, the Council is dissolved.