

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)
Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Minutes – Unofficial

The March 2, 2021 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Commission was called to order at 11:05 A.M.

Members present were: Judy Thompson, Susan Spring, Ph.D., Michael Tipton, Maria Blanco, Anthony C. “Buddy” Leach, Ileana Ledet, Alan Young, Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D., Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Monique Scott-Spaulding, Scott Richard, Monique Rouege, Melissa Goudeau, Senator Regina Barrow, Senator Beth Mizell, Paula Polito, Cindy Rushing, Dionne Frost, Keith Perrin, M.D., Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Ph.D., Lindsey Fisher, Seema Dave, Brenda Sharp, Jenna Chiasson, Ph.D., Kahree Wahid, Brittany Braun, Susannah Craig, Ph.D., First Lady Donna Edwards, Stacey Neal, Toni Buxton, Cynthia DiCarlo, Ph.D., Linda Flynn, Ph.D., and Mary Mills.

Susan East Nelson served as a proxy for Sherry Guarisco, Allison Trigg Ph.D. served as a proxy for Charles Zeanah, M.D., and Nancy Tooraen served as a proxy for Christina Melton.

Susan Spring, Ph.D., Melissa Stilley, Theon Julien, Representative Gary Carter, Scott Richard, Liz Smith, and Sandy Holloway were absent.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education were Jenna Chiasson, Ph.D. and Taylor Dunn.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Representative Stephanie Hilferty.

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission meeting. The Commission’s response was as follows:

- 1 On motion of Dr. Sonnier, and seconded by Ms. Buxton, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council approved the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting of the Commission.

The Department requested a motion to amend the agenda to present the agenda item, “Consideration of the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report” prior to the agenda item, “Consideration of the Louisiana Department of Education’s Plan to Support Family Child Care.”

- 2 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Dr. Sonnier, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission approved an amendment to the agenda to present the agenda item, “Consideration of the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report” prior to the agenda item, “Consideration of the Louisiana Department of Education’s Plan to Support Family Child Care.”

The Chair requested a motion to endorse the *2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report*.

- 3 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Spaulding, the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission endorsed the *2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report* with the following proposed changes:

On page 1:

- Add a sentence in the first paragraph that notes that the state’s investment in early childhood is less than ½ of 1% of the state budget.
- Around the second bullet of 3rd paragraph, add language about the collective impact of COVID-19 on families, including social emotional development, food insecurity, etc.
- Revise second recommendation to say as part of the total investment, ensure that at least \$4M is appropriated.
- Address how many children and teachers would be impacted by the suggested investment.
- In the quote, the name of the facility will be anonymous, for the sake of privacy.
- In the purple box, change higher IQ and achievement to higher achievement, and link to Heckman research for readers to locate additional research.
- Change the G in Governor to a lowercase g.

On page 2:

- Add a clause in paragraph one that says \$85.8 million now will see an economic benefit which is X times the original benefit to make clear the economic benefit from a one year investment.
- Work with Liz Smith to include a third quote from a Louisiana business in the call out box.
- Revamp the graphic so that the scale is equal to show actual loss.
- Add a note under the graph that emphasizes that the one-time investment would multiply over multiple years.
- Rework the box on supporting the child care field after COVID-19, to call out the intent of the federal stimulus, and outline a plan for where those dollars will go.

On page 3:

- Add a bullet on Louisiana’s quality early childhood system and the strides that have been made to improve quality.
- Change “everyone wins” to “everyone wins from investments in early care and education.”
- Include additional content on resources for families impacted by COVID-19 under recommendation 1. Emphasize how much families are struggling.
- Under recommendation 2, make clear that the ECE fund has been established through legislation and link to that legislation.
- In call out box, include in the title that Ready Start Networks have raised funding eligible for the ECE Fund match. Clarify information about Ready Start Networks, including the number, location, and guidance available, as well as the legislation that established them. Add links to the blueprints of individual networks referenced in the report.

On page 4:

- Highlight one other example of early childhood investment from the south, like one of our closer neighbors.
- In final call to action say “this” instead of “now” and “for years to come “ instead of “in the future “

The Chair requested a motion to receive an update on the Louisiana Department of Education’s Plan to Support Family Child Care.

- 4 On motion of Mr. Tipton, and seconded by Dr. Sonnier, the Commission received an update on the Louisiana Department of Education’s Plan to Support Family Child Care.

- 5 On motion of Ms. Polito, and seconded by Mr. Tipton, and with no further business to come before the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, the March 2, 2021 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.