

Education and Employment (E/E) Committee Summary

Wednesday, April 17, 2023

5615 Corporate Blvd. Ste. 300A, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom ([Register](#)) / [Virtual Meeting Protocols](#)

Streaming Live on [YouTube](#)

View meeting transcript [here](#).

Members Present: Mary Frances Avera, Nicole Banks, Melissa Bayham, Christi Gonzales, Meredith Jordan, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington (Chair), Vivienne Webb, Phil Wilson

Members Absent:

Staff: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Ebony Haven, Hannah Jenkins

Others Present: Brenda Bares, Kathleen Cannino, Kristie Curtis, Lillian DeJean, Nicole DeJean, Erin Downing, Liam Doyle, Kathy Dwyer, Mylinda Elliott, Nicole Flores, Julie Folse, Cammi Handy-Graham, Jill Hano, Angela Harmon, Chasity Hatsfelt, Lynsey Hebert (transcriptionist), Chanel Jackson, Krista James, Shontae Johnson, Christina Martin, Ashley McReynolds, Charlie Michel, Kelly Monroe, Melinda Perrodin, Bambi Polotzola, Susan Riehn, Samantha Singletary, Brooke Stewart, Mimi Webb

Renoda Washington called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm. A quorum was established.

Nicole Banks motioned to approve the [October 2023 E/E Committee Summary](#), Vivienne Webb seconded. There was a roll call vote with 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions.

Education and Employment Updates

Melissa Bayham shared an update on [Louisiana Rehabilitation Services](#) (LRS).

- LRS has their combined state plan out for public comment on laworks.net.
- They have also updated their tab for LRS on the Louisiana Workforce Commission website to be more user friendly. Includes a reformatted policy and procedure manual and new manual called a fee schedule
- There was a statewide vendor training about the rate change.
- LRS is also restructuring with the amount of staff available. This will allow rehabilitation counselor associates to work with consumers. They have been specifically trained them to be able to work on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).

Concerns about staff allocations were asked. LRS is only allowed to have a certain number of job positions within the office of workforce development, although there is funding for additional positions, there are only three vacant positions that fit within in number of job positions available.

Meredith Jordan, with [Louisiana Department of Education](#), then shared an update on:

- The new Special Education Ombudsman role is to help families of students with disabilities to navigate conflict processes. Provided a one page document to the committee that had her contact information on it.
- 2nd year data collection on cameras in the classroom will completed in May, then presented to BESE in August.
- Legislative updates, specifically on bulletin 1706. Specific timelines will be adopted July 1st. The changes in processes and procedure for school systems must be done for the 2024-2025 school year. LDOE updated the parent handbook to reflect the timeline updates in 1706. Additional legislation may cause a need to update the policy and procedures again after the session ends.

There were concerns over only having one ombudsman for the whole state, making sure the ombudsman was neutral, and the role of the ombudsman.

There was a suggestion from the committee to include a contact person for dispute resolution and complaint process investigations, since that is not the role of the ombudsmen.

There was a request for LDOE to bring more information on the ombudsman position to the full council meeting on April 18, 2024.

Contractual Activities

The committee also received updates on the contractual activity in Goal 3 of the Council's FY24 action plan additional information about these activities can be found in the Council's quarterly [Status of Planned Activities Report](#).

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:14pm.