



Education and Employment (E/E) Committee Summary

Wednesday, June 17, 2024

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: Nicole Banks, Melissa Bayham, Jamar Ennis, Christi Gonzales (Chair), Meredith Jordan, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington, Vivienne Webb, Phil Wilson

Members Absent:

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

Others Present: Cherie Aduli, Constance Alphose, Crystal Beniot, Kristie Curtis, Liam Doyle, Nicole Flores, Lynsey Hebert (transcriptionist), Mylinda Elliot, Christina Martin, Kelly Monroe, Michelle Ned, Pasqueal Nguyen, Jacki Pierce, Susan Riehn, Tory Rocca, Mimi Webb, Last names unknown: Amanda, April, Sherri, Susan

Christi Gonzales called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm. A quorum was established.

Vivienne Webb motioned to approve the [April 2024 E/E Committee Summary](#), Nicole Banks seconded. There was a roll call vote with 9 Yes, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions.

Education and Employment Updates

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

- LRS state plan was provisionally approved because there are not enough people on the council, due to administration changes.
- Planning has begun for Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for the 2025-2026 school year. There is currently a reapplication process for vendors in order to have better consistency of services statewide.
- Some other efforts include a better referral form for Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and The Office of Workforce Development is currently working with other state programs, such as Department of Children and Family Services. The collaboration efforts are to have a seamless system through the state.
- LRS is having a shift in procedure, where many things that were once happening at the regional level are now going to happen at the state office, allowing field staff to be in the field.

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

- The Special Education Monitoring Audit. A detailed audit timeline will be available at the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) on July 31 and presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in August.
- In June, LDOE attended a policy-writing seminar and asked for a national Office of Special Ed Programs (OSEP) funded technical assistance center to review the policy and provide feedback. This feedback is what was used to guide the recommendations for policy changes. The first being the addition of six new onsite monitoring positions, doubling the number of people that will be able to do onsite monitoring.
- New education legislation will require a number of bulletins to be updated to reflect the legislation. The bulletins will go to SEAP in July for their endorsement before they are sent to BESE for approval.
- SEAP membership received about 100 applicants. The membership committee screened and interviewed applicants. The next SEAP meeting is July 31.
- Families helping Families Centers submitted proposals for funding to LDOE with decisions being made by the end of the month.

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](#).

There was no public comments and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:49 pm.