

Education and Employment Committee Summary

July 19, 2023, 3:00 PM

5615 Corporate Blvd. Ste. 500B B.R., LA 70808

LIVE Streamed Via [YouTube](#)

You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/@LADDCouncil/streams>

View meeting transcript [here](#).

Members Present: Nicole Banks, Melissa Bayham, Meredith Jordan, Hyacinth McKee (Chair), Bambi Polotzola, Mary Tarver, Erick Taylor, Renoda Washington

Members Absent: Brenda Cosse, Christi Gonzales, Vivienne Webb, Phil Wilson

Staff: Brenton Andrus, Rekeesha Branch, Stephanie Carmona, Amy Deaville, Ebony Haven

Others Present: Lauren Womack, Cade Brumley, April Hampton, Nicole Flores, Jill Hano, Angela Harmon

Hyacinth McKee called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of the [January 2023 E/E Committee Summary](#) passed by unanimous consent.

Contractual Activities

We received updates on contractual activities in Goal 3 of the Council's FY23 action plan, including La Alliance of Postsecondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE) and the Employment Seminars that began in the Fiscal Year 2023 Action Plan. Additional information about these activities can be found in the Council's quarterly [Status of Planned Activities Report](#) under goal three.

Education and Employment Updates

We then received an update from Melissa Bayham with [Louisiana Rehabilitation Services](#) (LRS) regarding the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LRS and Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). The MOU is an agreement between LRS and LDOE that will help to better serve students in schools receiving Pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS), transition services, and third party provider services within the school systems. LDOE cannot mandate that school districts use third party partnerships, but is encouraging them that it is available and advising them to utilize these services. They are also providing steps to families to get those services. LRS also spoke on a rate increase for supported employment, they will now get funded for job search assistance. The next step is to get that increase in the other employment sections. The hope is that the rate increase will help fill LRS vacancies as well as provider vacancies.

Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education, gave an update that included:

- Shifting Diverse Learners to teaching and learning department
- Networking with special education directors around the State- sharing challenges and ideas

- Special Education Fellowship program- Veteran Special Education Directors mentoring new Special Education Directors
- Cameras in the classroom- 10% upkeep amount included in budget
- Special education teacher pay- differentiated compensation
- Special education playbook- Inclusive education instructional strategies, receiving national attention
- Updating the dispute resolution process- commissioned an independent study and will have a report with recommendations for improvement

Meredith Jordan, with LDOE, then gave their report on the [Special Education Advisory Council annual reports](#). Each School district submitted a report, they are linked on the LDOE website and the report includes links to each district's report. This report will be updated on LDOE's website as new information becomes available. LDOE then spoke on cameras in the classroom. There will be a report from every school system that will include, but not limited to, the total allocation, number of special education classes, number of parent requests, number of cameras purchased, and amount of money remaining. This report will be presented to BESE in August.

Aligned with historical reports from LDOE, The Education and Employment Committee requests that the Louisiana Department of Education include in all quarterly reports to the E/E committee a statewide report on the discipline of students with disabilities. The report will reflect data on discipline from all districts inclusive of charter schools.

Bambi Polotzola, with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, spoke on the Louisiana Special School District (LSSD). There was a new superintendent announced for the LSSD, Dr. David Martin, originally from Tennessee. So far the stakeholder feedback has been very positive regarding Dr. Martin's leadership. He has implemented a lot of positive changes and is also in the process of hiring highly qualified principals and administrators for the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:52pm.