



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

Resilient Louisiana Commission Meeting

April 28, 2020

Meeting Called to Order: 5 p.m.

Commission Members Present

- Terrie Sterling
- Sec. Don Pierson
- Sec. Kimberly Lewis Robinson
- Commissioner Jay Dardenne
- Dr. Jim Richardson
- Rep Paula Davis
- Sen Ronnie Johns
- Lt. Gov. Billy Nunguesser
- Scott Hensgens
- Bill Hogan
- Michael Lafitte
- Walt Leger, III
- Ti Martin
- Sonia Perez
- Tyron Picard
- Louis Reine
- Jade Brown Russell
- Tim Temple

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- Co-chairman LED Secretary Don Pierson confirmed a quorum was reached and commenced the meeting. He introduced Director for Resilient Louisiana Commission Andrew Doss.
- Assistant Secretary of Health for the Louisiana Department of Health Alex Billioux joined the meeting and provided context regarding the Governor Edwards' extension of the Stay-at-Home Order. Acknowledging mixed feelings, much of the guidance the state was following was informed by the White House's initial guidance; the decision to reopen would be based on the state's ability to test residents, trace where and how the disease is spreading in the state, and isolate those infected.
- Assistant Secretary Billioux continued, saying the state looked at the containment of the disease in terms of the level of people presenting symptoms, the number that actively have COVID-19, and the number hospitalized. While the number of people presenting symptoms was decreasing across the state, this was mostly explained by improvements in the New Orleans area and the Houma/Thibodaux area. On a regional basis, there were increases in cases in regions 2 and 8, and there are some regions where cases are plateauing. Hospitalizations were on the rise in some regions. All of these indicators ultimately told state officials that more time was needed to see cases resolved, for more infrastructure to be in place to respond, to increase the message of social distancing, and to avoid the threat of reopening the state too prematurely, thus threatening resource and hospital capacity issues once more.
- Michael Polito of MAPP construction inquired about discrepancies in case numbers reported in Baton Rouge region.
- Director Ross provided a review of the overall process and structure of the Resilient Louisiana Commission and the various task forces that will inform the broader commissions recommendations.
- Commission Member and Louisiana Department of Revenue Secretary Kim Robinson encouraged each task force to meet once a week and to give a detailed breakdown of what was observed during the stay at home order for each target sector, as well as what will be needed from each industry perspective, whether those industries are

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deemed essential and open now, or those that are currently closed in order to open back up as the state enters “phase 1” or “phase 2.”

- Secretary Robinson also charged the task forces with considering how to make Louisiana more resilient. She reminded all that the task force meetings are open to the public, and that Andrew Doss and David Carter of LED are available to assist in setting up video conference program Zoom to facilitate public meetings.
- Secretary Robinson opened the meeting to questions from fellow commission members.

Questions from Members

- Louis Reine asked if a universal minimum safety guideline in accordance with the CDC recommendations for employees returning to work to be kept safe has been put in place. Secretary Robinson responded that different industries have different requirements, some have none at all, but for those that do, Louisiana will follow CDC guidance, including the CDC’s recommendation for wearing masks in public
- Will LaBarr asked if video conference services other than Zoom could be used if required by industry security standard. Sec. Robinson answered in the affirmative, and encouraged providing that information to Direct Ross and Mr. Carter.
- Director Doss reminded everyone that meetings are to be recorded and sent to the Commission staff. This was a request from the Governor’s communications staff and not a specific requirement of state law.
- Ti Martin asked who should be contacted regarding requesting changes to the PPP program. Sec. Robinson confirmed that they were to work with LED’s Mandi Mitchell, who is working with the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

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- Keith Une of the U.S. Army asked which task force meetings would the commission recommend he and other service members follow to keep up with information pertaining to the military. The suggested response was the Economic Development, IT and Communications, and Infrastructure and Transportation Task Forces.
- Walt Leger asked about crossovers for task forces, and what mechanisms were in place for sharing respective task force information. Sec. Robinson emphasized the importance of Commission members participating in the various Task Force meetings and to share that information with other commission members who can then direct it to the appropriate task force. Sec. Don Pierson added that no one should feel confined, and to share expertise with a task force that they may not already be assigned to. He continued that ultimately the best information needs to come up, be distilled and analyzed so the Commission's recommendations can best inform the Governor's decisions.
- Corey Wilson of BREC asked about some items that may not be covered by any task forces, if there is a contact person with whom he should communicate. Sec. Robinson directed him to the structural document.
- Ti Martin said that, as the meeting is wrapping up, she felt it necessary to emphasize the urgency of supporting the restaurant industry. A banking industry representative offered to connect offline to provide support.
- Tyron Picard of CABL offered to provide the Commission with a document breaking down various sectors of revenue collected by the state for the general fund.
- Sonia Perez asked for the web address for the Resilient Louisiana Commission website. Mr. Carter provided the address: <https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/resilientlouisiana>
- Sec. Pierson acknowledged that the commission is awaiting feedback from the various task forces, and looks forward to aggregating the information received.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:48 p.m.

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