



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

Information Technology and Communications Task Force

April 30, 2020

Meeting Commenced: 5:00 p.m.

Information Technology and Communications Task Force Members Present

- William LaBar
- Erin Monroe Wesley
- David Aubrey
- Omar Bhatti
- Terrell Boynton
- Janet Britton
- April Brumfield
- Mike Dozier
- David Facey
- Melissa Mann
- Charles Masters
- Shawn Usher

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- The co-chairs, Will LaBar and Erin Monroe Wesley introduced themselves, and shared that the purpose of the meeting was to gain a shared understanding of the goal and to first, create an action plan for how data will be collected and second, how to deliver those recommendations to the Resilient Louisiana Commission.
- Roll was called, all task force members were present. Chair LaBar read the Governor’s certification for lack of quorum, giving the Task Force the ability to meet remotely.
- Chair Monroe Wesley introduced LED Secretary Don Pierson. Sec. Pierson emphasized how distance learning and broadband may be something for the task force to address, but also to integrate long term outlook as well for a resilient Louisiana. He also shared how the CARES act provides federal programs, and how Louisiana takes advantage of these federal tools may determine how well the current crisis is managed.
- Chair LaBar provided a powerpoint presentation to explain the framework of the task force, its goals, and how to achieve those. The task force was given two objectives, the first being crisis response and developing industry specific recommendations, and the second to examining Louisiana’s economic vulnerability and building long-term comprehensive game plan for a resilient Louisiana Economy.
- Chair LaBar provided guidance on the direction for the task force, with task force members ultimately supporting a goal of focusing on “pure play” IT and Communications service provider crisis management, and then harvest information from other task forces as their findings surface to providing cross-sector examination of IT and comms resiliency, understanding obstacles facing the respective industries and providing help.
- Chair LaBar recommended placing task force members in pairs to provide a consultative approach to and identify leaders in other sectors, gathering research and conducting interviews on long- and short-term needs.
- Task Force member David Facey encouraged the task force to see what impacts to the IT sector need to be fixed first, and then help others. Charles Masters suggested a workshop of ideas to get cross-sector collaboration

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- Volunteers signed up for various task forces in the first phase:
 - Education and Workforce Development – Omar Bhatti, Terrell Boynton
 - Health and Human Services – Charles Masters, Mike Dosier
 - Rural Development - Janet Britton, April Brumfield, (optional: David Aubrey),
 - Small Business and Retail – David Facey
 - IT and communications – David Aubrey, April Brumfield
 - Manufacturing – Shawn Usher
 - Energy – Shawn Usher
- The next steps for the task force were to charges, the first of which is data collection related to reopening IT and Communication service provider sectors, and to then e-mail that information to task force co-chairs.
- The second charge is to start scheduling conversations with representatives of the various task forces participants volunteered to support, and to provide any notes gathered from those meetings going into the next IT and Communications Task Force meeting.
- The co-chairs then turned the meeting over to questions. Charles Masters asked for clarity on the first charge regarding reopening. Will LaBar clarified that it would apply to specific IT firms, and not to imbedded IT sectors; the goal is to collect information on what task force members are planning in terms of reopening, both small and large firms, and whether or not that would include phasing in, and a structure for returning to the work force.
- Omar Bhatti recommended the task force chairs seek out volunteers in other task forces to participate in the IT and communications task force conversations and surveys.
- The task force agreed to provide notes regarding charge 1 to the co-chairs by close of business May 6. Erin Monroe Welsely confirmed next meeting would take place May 11 at 4 p.m.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

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