



# RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

## Resilient Louisiana Commission Meeting

May 29, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 10:00 a.m.

### Roll Call - Members Present:

- Don Pierson
- Terrie Sterling
- Kimberly Robinson
- Walt leger
- Jim Richardson
- Ti Martin
- Billy Nungesser
- Bill Hogan
- Michael La'Fitte
- Sonia Perez
- Jade Brown-Russel
- Tim Temple

- **Quorum Established**
- **Agenda**
  - Approval of minutes from May 14, 15 and 22 meetings
  - Motion by: Walt Leger
  - Seconded by: Sonia Perez
- **Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs**
  - Co-Chair Terrie Sterling: Today's agenda reflects the commission's interest in promoting an equitable resilient Louisiana. Thanks to Louisiana residents for efforts to practice physical distancing, wearing masks, hand washing and all the other recommendations by public health officials. These efforts by Louisiana residents are vital as the state continues its recovery.
  - Co-Chair Don Pierson: Task force reports are due to be submitted to the commission by Friday, June 12. The commission will plan to meet May 15-19, from 9 to 11 a.m. each day, for task force representatives to make presentations to the commission about their submitted reports.
- **Presentation by Angela Glover Blackwell, founder in residence at PolicyLink (introduced by Jade Brown-Russell)**
  - Economic inequality is a weak link in our society. There are important benefits to having everyone participate in the state economy. Equity is a superior growth model.
  - **Question from Andrew Doss: local examples**
    - A recovery plan in Hawaii was designed around the needs of women as a vulnerable population, including caregivers and workers in challenged occupations such as hospitality.
  - **Question from Jessica Kemp: healthy environment as a key element for a healthy population**
    - Minority populations are often the hardest hit by environmental issues. We should strive to ensure that workplaces and community conditions are safe and don't expose vulnerable populations to unhealthy situations.
  - **Question: equity capital for minority businesses**
    - People of color, Hispanics and Asian-Americans are three times more likely than white individuals to start small businesses. Models exist for practices that can help them be successful.
  - **Question: expansion of broadband access**
    - Broadband access can be a vital tool for rural communities to participate to a greater degree in the economy.
  - **Comment from Tim Alexander: investments held by the banking industry hold great potential for recovery planning**
  - **Question from Terri Sterling: proven strategies that have been applied to economic development**

- There are specific models that connect strategy to outcome and time frame; will share with commission members.
- **Presentation by Alexander Ruder, principal CED advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (introduced by Terrie Sterling)**
  - The time will come to move from broad strategy to specific tactics to improve conditions after the pandemic. A key will be to identify barriers to success in career paths and determine how to help the workforce progress to more productive situations. The Federal Reserve has forecasting tools that are available to communities throughout its southeast region.
  - **Comment from Ti Martin: retraining options will be needed once federal employment payments expire in a few months and many workers re-enter the workforce.**
  - **Question from Mark Shetler: how to help workers and business when employment is needed soon, and workers aren't in a position to go back to school for a new career?**
    - We don't want people to give up on careers that they love, but if they explore options and sense an opportunity for a more lucrative and rewarding position, we need to remove obstacles to enable them to pursue those options. Investments in workforce training can have significant payoffs for the economy in the long term.
- **Secretary Pierson Remarks**
  - Some attention is being paid now to so-called "lifeboat jobs," for those currently displaced from their usual working environment. How can they be rapidly integrated back into the workforce? If there is light training necessary to make that happen, we are about getting engaged and involved in those. We are also reaching out to Louisiana's community colleges for the kinds of certificates that can be acquired rapidly to equip people with the skill sets they need to re-enter the workforce.
- **Public Comment**
- **Motion to Adjourn**
  - Motion by: Terrie Sterline
  - Seconded by: Jade Brown-Russell
- **Secretary Pierson Requests Motion to Adjourn**
  - Motion by: Walt Leger
  - Seconded by: Tyron Picard

**Acknowledgement and adjournment at 11:25 a.m.**