



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resilient Louisiana Commission Meeting

June 12, 2020

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

Roll Call - Members Present:

- Co-chair, Secretary Don Pierson
- Co-chair, Terrie Sterling
- Dr. Jim Richardson
- Bill Hogan
- Ti Martin
- Tyron Picard
- Jade Brown Russel
- Michael Laffite
- Walt Leger

- **Quorum Not Yet Established**
- **Terrie Sterling Opening Remarks**
 - I'm looking forward to Secretary Dejoie's presentation. I've also conducted a gap analysis about what we might not have explored as a Commission. The piece I've be looking at is housing. If we're focused on resiliency, housing and the needs of essential workers is critical. I ask our Commissioners to think about additional topics that we might need to visit prior to completing the final report.
- **Secretary Pierson Opening Remarks**
 - There's some additional information that we'll review with the Commission later in the meeting. Today is a milestone date for us, as Task Forces will be submitting their final recommendations. I'm happy to have my great colleague with us today, Secretary Ava Dejoie, to discuss the unemployment trust fund in our state.
- **Secretary Dejoie gives presentation on Unemployment Trust Fund and Statutory Triggers**
 - **Question from Dr. Jim Richardson**
 - Do we have any information about what we're going to collect in taxes for the next quarter?
 - **Secretary Dejoie:** Our tax collection for the first quarter was around 90 million. There's a piece of legislation that passed that will allow employers to push back their next quarterly payments for two months.
 - **Dr. Jim Richardson:** This trust fund involves several interesting issues. We want to keep paying into the trust fund, but the federal budget office says we won't have normal employment and revenue for some time. And we want to keep the fund healthy for the long-term so that it doesn't go bankrupt. Ideally there would be federal support to help with that.
 - **Questions from Walt Leger**
 - What has been paid out in unemployment compensation to date? What happens when workers hit their 26-week maximum? 103,000 businesses out of 110,000 businesses in our state are those with less than 50 employees. What is the average cost to them in taxes currently?
 - **Secretary Dejoie**
 - Provides breakdown of funds paid out on slides. Explains how business size and wages dictate tax rates.
 - **Dr. Jim Richardson**
 - After the 26-week maximum is reached and unemployment is still high, many people won't have the means to afford essential services and goods, which is even more problematic for our economy.

- **Question from Ti Martin**
 - Is there a system for able-bodied people in the hospitality industry to make affordable housing in a Habitat for Humanity type of way?
- **Ava Dejoie**
 - We do have disaster dislocated worker funding that could potentially help to build affordable housing, but I'll have to look into that.
 - It would be powerful if this group used its platform to get behind improving this trust fund.
- **Tyron Picard**
 - Have the regional economic development organizations been briefed on this? They tend to be good spokespersons in their regions. I would suggest that they hear this presentation.
- **Secretary Pierson**
 - Offers to be the conduit to connect Secretary Dejoie and the regional economic development organizations.
- **Tim Alexander, member of the public**
 - I am working on bringing new funding and financing. FDIC ensures bank deposits and it went broke twice in 2010. There is federal money available. Please reach out to me if needed.
- **Secretary Pierson**
 - Discusses scheduling of the Task Force meetings for receiving final recommendations and the process moving forward.
 - Welcomes feedback on the proposed schedule.
- **Jade Brown Russel**
 - Sounds great, and confirms that June 26 is a good date to present on equity.
- **Secretary Pierson**
 - We will not be presenting to the Commission a working draft before the end of June, because we feel like it's better to get it right than to rush it.
 - Provides summary of process for producing the final report.
- **Terrie Sterling**
 - By the 26th there should be an emerging list of priorities, and the team that produces those priorities could present to the Commission.
 - We could also bring in contributors to the Foster 2020 Vision to discuss lessons learned from that experience.
- **Tyron Picard**
 - One observation, it appears that Congress will move on the CARES Act between July 20th and 31st. We're being told this will be focused on economic incentives and rejuvenation.

- **Opens for Public Comment**
 - No public comment
- **Andrew Doss**
 - As we prepare for the Task Force reports, I will send out a link to the working draft. Please try to review that before the meetings next week.
- **Secretary Pierson**
 - Acknowledged his presentation to C-100
- **Secretary Robinson**
 - Assures the group she has joined the meeting, which established a quorum.
- **Secretary Pierson**
 - Calls for motion to adopt last week's minutes.
 - Secretary Robinson moves to adopt the minutes, Tyron Picard Seconds.
- **Motion to Adjourn by Secretary Pierson**
 - Adjourns meeting at 11:16