



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resilient Louisiana Commission Meeting

June 5, 2020

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

Roll Call - Members Present:

- Terrie Sterling
- Walt Leger
- Jim Richardson
- Paula Davis
- Ti Martin
- Bill Hogan
- Michael La'Fitte
- Sonia Perez
- Tyron Picard
- Jade Brown-Russell
- Tim Temple

- **Quorum Established**
- **Agenda**
 - Approval of minutes
 - Motion by: Walt Leger
 - Seconded by: Sonia Perez
- **Opening Remarks from Governor John Bel Edwards (introduced by Co-Chair Terrie Sterling)**
 - The work of the Resilient Louisiana Commission is making a real difference. Where it can, the state is incorporating RLC guidance into emergency orders and all efforts to continue reopening sectors of the Louisiana economy and to expand the occupancy of those already opened.
 - As the state continues to make progress, it should remain aware of health disparities that specifically challenge minorities and vulnerable populations. Beyond the fight against COVID-19, those co-morbid conditions have a detrimental effect in many aspects of life in our state. These conditions are spread throughout our population, so the work to address conditions for those specific groups will benefit the state as a whole. The healthier our population is, the more productive it will be.
 - It is helpful that the commission is examining how the state can reinvigorate its economy through equity and inclusion. We should continue to look beyond the immediate needs caused by the pandemic and focus on how Louisiana can emerge as a stronger state, through such areas as healthcare infrastructure, expansion of broadband access to rural areas and telehealth practices.
- **Presentation by Dr. Stephen Barnes, director of the Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (introduced by Co-Chair Terrie Sterling)**
 - Several economic indicators in Louisiana are starting to trend in the right direction, but much work remains to be done. Challenges that our state's economy faced prior to the pandemic will still need attention afterward; these include the state's reliance on cyclical industries such as energy and tourism, education attainment, the "brain drain" of college graduates leaving Louisiana for careers elsewhere and the rate of participation in the labor market.
 - Moving forward, the economy will change in a variety of ways, some of them subtle, others more obvious. Opportunities will become available for the state to diversify its economy. Some promising opportunities could include pharmaceutical manufacturing and other areas of manufacturing capacity as supply lines shift away from overseas back to domestic options. Investments in human capital will be increasingly important; we can benefit from the result of increased access to quality education and workforce training.
- **Presentation by Alfa Demmellash, CEO and co-founder of Rising Tide Capital and Future Tide Partners (introduced by Andrew Doss)**

- As we invest in human capital, we should consider how to guide individuals into careers that are both personally rewarding and beneficial to the economy and the community. Support for those engaged in small businesses and entrepreneurship is vital, as these are key job creators. This is the time to invest, both philanthropically and from a public perspective, to aid in the reconstruction of an economy that can withstand the shock of something like the COVID-19 pandemic. With Louisiana's unique attributes, it is well-positioned to lead a national conversation about how an economy of the future can be developed.
- **Remarks by Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed**
 - Plans are proceeding for the safe reopening of higher education institutions.
- **Introduction of documents by Jade Brown-Russell**
 - Two documents expanding on previous discussions of equity and resiliency issues will be shared with the commission task forces.
- **Motion to Adjourn**
 - Motion by: Sonia Perez
 - Seconded by: Jade Brown-Russell

Acknowledgement and adjournment at 11:35 a.m.