



# RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resilient Louisiana Commission  
Friday, June 26, 2020  
Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

Commission members present:

- Terrie Sterling
- Sec. Don Pierson
- Sec. Kimberly Lewis Robinson
- Scott Hensgens
- Bill Hogan
- Walt Leger, III
- Ti Martin
- Tyron Picard
- Louis Reine
- Jade Brown Russell
- Tim Temple

### Meeting

- Resilient Louisiana Commission Director Andrew Doss called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., thanked members for their participation. He stated that the meeting was held via YouTube rather than Zoom as a precautionary measure to guard against so-called “Zoombombs.” He encouraged public participants to participate in the chat or e-mail comments.
- Andrew then took roll. Eleven commission members were present, which established a quorum. He then invited RLC Co-chairs Sec. Don Pierson and Terrie Sterling to provide opening comments.
- Sec. Pierson turned the floor over to Gov. John Bel Edwards.
- Gov. Edwards provided remarks and asked for additional assistance. He acknowledged that the state has not yet moved into Phase 3 and will remain in Phase 2, based on newly released data regarding increasing cases of COVID-19.
- The number of people testing positive now exceeds the number of people who have recovered, and that only is among the people who have been tested. Two and a half months ago, we were two months ago we were number 2 in the nation for cases. We successfully dropped to number 10, but increased back to number 7. We lost all of the progress we made in terms of hospitalizations.
- We have a goal to test 200,000 individuals per month. It is disappointing that we are not moving to phase 3, but we don’t meet the criteria to move to phase 3. I called Dr. Toni Fauci to make sure he knew where we were on the date and what my decision was and he said that was the right decision to make. Cases are spiking in other states. I have decided to not go backwards, but we will pause where we are.
- Quite simply, I need more compliance. We are not close to exceeding our capacity, but we are heading in that direction. One of the most disturbing trends we’ve seen is that the group that is contracting this disease the most in recent weeks is those that are 18 to 21 years old.
- I’m asking for your help, within each of your task forces to do everything you can to gain compliance. We cannot continue on the road that we’re on without running the risk of going backwards and put more restrictions on the economy and the state as a whole.

- Gov. Edwards yielded the floor to Dr. Alex Billioux, who stated that in the past couple of weeks Louisiana is below 10 percent positive cases on most days, and considering that the numbers before were in the 6 to 7 percent, what Louisiana is now seeing is a higher level of percent positivity, despite the fact that the number of tests is much is greater. He said that it's not just a result of more testing; these are people in the community with COVID. He then proceeded with a region by region overview
- Gov. Edwards then said that Dr. Cade Brumley released some guidelines on school reopenings. Dr. Brumley developed those with the Department of Health. Gov. Edwards said the state is working hard to ensure that Louisiana students have on-campus instruction, K-12, all across Louisiana. Such guidelines are developed based on the respective phases.
- Sec. Pierson introduced Stan Harris, who commented that getting people to be compliant with rules is a responsibility of restaurant managers to manage these crowds. He said the approach in the restaurant is "Do it for yourself, but please also do it for me, because I'm serving you."
- Gov. Edwards continued, saying that the vast majority of businesses are complying, and that he doesn't mean to paint with a broad brush, but he doesn't want those who are doing well to suffer because of those that are not. Gov. Edwards then left the meeting
- Terrie Sterling said that one other point to make to individuals is to remember healthcare heroes. Ti Martin said that right now true hospitality is covid courtesy, and that patrons and businesses who don't participate is a danger to others health-wise and dangerous to the Louisiana economy.
- Andrew then turned the meeting over to Secretary Robinson to respond to a request for additional information regarding the \$300 million Louisiana Mainstreet Recovery program.
- Sec. Kim Robinson said that the Louisiana Mainstreet Recovery program was enacted during the regular legislative session. It is Act 311, which creates a \$300 million fund for small business grants. Businesses can apply for up to \$15,000 through this grant process, and the State Treasurer's Office has an expected program start date of July 1. The program is being developed in consultation with the Legislative Auditors Office and outside consultants.
- She shared details on the time of the program:

- For the first 21 days of program, grants are going out to businesses that did not receive either a PPP loan from the SBA or an economic injury loan. Additionally, if a business is an affiliate of a larger business, it is not eligible.
  - After the first 21 days, during the first 60 days, \$40 million will go to Women, minority or veterans requires both ownership and control. At least 50 percent of the business has to be owned by someone from these demographics. No more than 50 full time employees. Businesses cannot be lobbying firms.
  - Eligible expenses include those incurred to creating safe work environment, signage, safety precautions, installation of drive-thru windows, and PPE. IT also includes business interruption costs, such as mortgage interest
- Sec. Robinson turned meeting over to questions; a question in the chat was “When can we start filing the application?” She replied that filing out the application can begin as soon as the application opens, and that the Treasurer will announce that date on July 1. Program updates can be found at [latreasurey.com](http://latreasurey.com).
  - Responding to a question in the chat, Sec. Robinson confirmed that If you are an LLC, you will need to submit in the name of the LLC and provide the members of the LLC.
  - Sec. Pierson thanked Sec. Robinson for the program information.
  - Sec. Pierson then turned meeting over to Andrew, who turned the meeting over to Jade Brown Russell for a presentation on Equity: The Superior Growth Model.
    - Equity is the just and fair inclusion into a society in which everyone can participate and prosper.
    - All 15 reports and recommendations from the task forces were reviewed with a lens of equity.
    - The rationale is to secure Louisiana’ future in the face of health and economic challenges we’ve faced, Louisiana needs a new growth model – one that builds on our assets, leaves the generations to come with a strong foundation for the future and brings us closer to the ideal of prosperity for all. Equity is that new growth model and an economic necessity.
    - An equity-driven growth model would bring together two agendas that have traditionally been separate: Growth: growing new jobs and bolster long-term competitiveness; and Equity: ensure that all - especially low-income people, rural people, people of color and other vulnerable groups – have the opportunity to benefit from and co-create that growth.
    - Jade Brown Russell went through highlights of various task force reports and how equity was either mentioned or alluded to in the reports.
    - Of those highlights, cross-cutting themes emerged:

- Education
  - Workforce Development
  - Small Business Growth
  - Wages
  - Housing
  - Food Security
  - Broadband and Digital Divide
  - Health Investments Beyond Clinical Boundaries.
- Recommendations and the Path Forward:
    - Educate all on Equity in Resilience – All will need to stretch outside of their comfort zones. Private-sector leasers, Growth Advocates, and Equity Advocates
    - Create a place where equity lives – specific, measurable objectives should be created for each cross-cutting equity theme; measurable objectives should be prioritized in collaboration with the task forces and tracked. Creation of a statewide Office of Social Equity, which would be responsible for measuring Louisiana’s equity/social vulnerability. It would employ the “equity lens.” The voice of equity should be at every table, and in every room.
    - Commit to Tracking Metrics that Inform Equity Outcomes – leaders must prioritize, track and measure racial, gender and economic inclusion. Ensure that Louisiana collects meaningful data.
- Jade Brown Russell opened the meeting up to questions.
  - Walt Leger III asked if there are examples of an office of social equity in states or cities that would serve as a model for us to look at. Jade Brown Russell said there were several states that had such offices, and cities as well, including New Orleans. Louisiana would not be recreating the wheel. Terrie Sterling said Atlanta as an office of Equity.
  - Terrie Sterling asked how does Jade recommend summarizing the actionable items and equity outcomes into a global action item. Jade replied through collaboration and partnership; one thing that is often missed is the presence of equity advocates.
  - Corey Wilson provided a comment, saying he agreed that the more Louisiana can make equity and show benefits to the bottom line, ultimately that will drive our efforts. If there was some sort of equity scorecard in terms of agencies and businesses in terms of who is performing well in terms of equity.

- Ti Martin said it's long past time for these improvements, and thanked Jade for the presentation. She asked to propose a motion. Sec. Pierson asked to first ensure all comments related to the presentation were heard first.
- Kelisha Garrett said that in working with LED's office in the alliance for economic inclusion, they have been tracking ways to improve transparency around the Hudson and Veteran programs, and are looking into how we can expand that to other programs.
- Sec. Pierson turned meeting over to Ti Martin. Ti Martin offered the following motion:
  - To not give up the gains that resulted from the sacrifices the State has already made, and to support our Governor's efforts to lead the state to a stronger, faster recovery, we support the Governor in doing all in his power, including shutting down businesses and setting up a number to enforce non-compliance in order to enforce the requirements already in place.
- Sec. Pierson asked to soften language of "shutting down." Walt Leger supports the motion but wants to soften the language. Sec. Pierson asked Walt what the best vehicle is for Ti's intention, he said it makes sense for it to be a resolution of support, but it could authorize the co-chairs, which would provide more flexibility. Walt said he has no objection to the sentiment, but is cognizant of getting the verbiage correct so it can be received in the best possible light.
- Terrie Sterling proposed a motion to endorse the development of a position statement from the commission as it relates to the Governor maintaining the gains and moving toward a methodology of enforcement, which was to be developed by a group, submitted to the commission and then published as a resolution.
- Terrie made a motion and Walt Leger seconded it, Sec. Pierson invited a discussion; hearing none, a vote was taken: All ayes, no nays.
- Sec. Pierson called on James Chappell of LED, who gave an update on the 500-page report, saying there is a lot of fantastic work. He and his staff are carefully going through and identifying major themes, what is feasible and what items can be grouped together in a holistic approach.
- Terrie asked if the commission would reconvene on July 10 or July 17.
- Andrew Doss said that the commission usually has time for questions from the public, but those questions are in the chat box and are being replied to during the meeting.
- Sec. Pierson the stated that the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.