



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resilient Louisiana Commission
Task Force Presentations:
Education and Workforce Training
Friday, June 19, 2020
Meeting called to order at: 9:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Terrie Sterling
- Sec. Don Pierson
- Sec. Kimberly Lewis Robinson
- Rep Paula Davis
- Scott Hensgens
- Walt Leger, III
- Tyron Picard
- Louis Reine
- Jade Brown Russell
- Tim Temple

Meeting

- Resilient Louisiana Commission Director Andrew Doss called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began the meeting by providing a history of Juneteenth.
- He announced that the meeting had reached quorum, and that the commission was authorized to meet remotely in accordance with proclamation JBE 2020-52. Andrew introduced Co-chairs Don Pierson and Terrie Sterling. Pierson said he was thankful for great work that's been done and Sterling thanked Andrew for mentioning Juneteenth, stating that the day is about freedom and remembering sacrifice and great pain and suffering.
- Andrew Introduced Kim Hunter-Reed, leader of the Education task force, to begin the presentation.

Education

- Kim Hunter-Reed began the presentation by saying that it is nested in the vision of resilience for all and encouraged the commissioners to not miss this moment to make improvements in Louisiana. She described task force and its structure, including subcommittees on early education and skills training respectively/
- She stated that “Resilience is one Louisiana” and provided the guiding principles for this mission
 - All people are valued
 - Equity gaps are erased
 - Information is Shared
 - Resources are leveraged
 - Outcomes and published and made available
- She shared the overall goals of the task force
 - Get People Working
 - Access to Quality Childcare
 - Erase Digital Divide
 - Build Resilient Families
- The task force’s overarching recommendations calls for a transformation of the design of education and workforce systems that prioritize the person and the family.
- To facilitate this recommendation, the task force’s supporting priorities include:
 - Combined state plans and processes brought into alignment
 - Crisis-informed snapshot of the state of the economy and opportunity in Louisiana

- Proactive and braided resourcing
- Collaborative regional processes
- Detailed Recommendations – Five primary categories:
 - Workforce Development and Reemployment
 - Resilient and Equitable Education and Learning in the New Normal
 - Leveraging Economic Development for Resilient and Equitable Education and Workforce Development
 - Resilient Foundations for individuals, families and households
 - Bridging the digital divide.
- Kim Hunter Reed then Introduced Louisiana Workforce Commission Sec. Ava Dejoie. Sec. Dejoie said when looking at a rapid response, what Louisiana can do right now is focus on the work of local workforce development boards and regional economic development partners in order to opening the doors to economic prosperity to our citizens, as well as to ensure the return on investment of certifications and degrees.
- She said the task force is looking at what is currently in place, as well as what's coming next, the immediate needs, and opportunities for collaborative re-engagement.
- She then revealed the latest unemployment numbers are out, in which Louisiana's number were down compared to the preceding month.
- The task force's top recommendations for Resilient and Equitable Education and Learning
 - Quality early childhood access/affordability
 - K-12 Continuous learning plans & new work-based learning models
 - Erase digital divide
 - Transformative redesign of higher education focused on responsiveness, resilience and equity
 - Talent development at scale
 - Accelerate equitable education to employment
 - Innovative and leveraged funding models
- She said the two sub groups discussed how to open summer camps safely.
- Leverage Economic Development
 - How do we get the jobs from LED FastStart to the workforce commission to make sure we are quickly adjusting what is in the occupational forecast, how do we adjust quality when we have a new opportunity coming to the state. Relying on business and industry.
- Resilient Individuals and Households
 - Goal of Every Louisiana house household to be resilient

- Two-generation approach
- Quality childcare – family needs/business support
- Trauma-informed support
- Proactive resourcing

- Bridge Digital Divide
 - Goal of erasing this divide now. A focus on rural communities, all of these are critical issues to erasing divide, including building a STEM ecosystem and encouraging e-commerce

- Reopening Guidelines
 - The task force requested guidance on how to have safe phased reopening of childhood, K-12 and higher education, ensuring that all decisions are CDC-informed.

- Andrew Doss opened meeting up to Commissioners for questions:

- Tyron Picard said that benchmarking of K-12 is something CABL is ready to help with. He said the organization sees it as one of the most critical things that will impact our state. He thanked the task force for the great work

- Louis Reine said there was a medium earnings based on education or certification on page 8 and asked if the task force looked at how those earnings compare to other states? Sec. Dejoie introduced Dr. Boustimani to answer the questions. Dr. Boustimani said that they had those benchmarks, they looked at the regional disparities within the state, and what those partners were trending to.

- Terrie Sterling said that in a presentation yesterday the current education model states that 1/3 of the learning is expected at home through homework. She asked if this is a widely accepted number and what structures are in place around this? Kim Hunter Reed replied that she can't speak to the statistics, but Pre-covid, support was needed. Now, when the state shuttered, every parent became a teacher. This is helping to change the narrative. The correlation of your parent's income determines your success. It is our responsibility to make sure we have the kind of supports to help our students. Sec. Dejoie added a note about disaster relocation grants, which includes childcare.

- Barbara Gombossy commented that the state should incorporate a bridge of support into teacher prep programs, as you don't want someone off the street to help with these programs. They need the content background. If there were someone had this background, and they could get the classroom experience. Kim Hunter Reed replied that she will pass the recommendation on, and that the challenge is beyond the number of

cadet programs, as the state has had a decline in the number of teachers.

- Andrew opened meeting to public questions.
- “Tim” suggested that the task force is going about addressing digital divide backwards, saying how the state should argue for the need for funding for the digital divide for the pandemic, with educational purposes being ancillary. He continued that the state should get people back to work using stimulus money. He said training programs are not keeping pace with changes in the industry. Long term, we need to train workers to interact with robotics and automation. Long term opportunity to migrate the workforce. Louis Reine offered to respond, saying that in the labor program we work with, this has been recognized for a period of time. There has been ongoing “journeyman upgrade” trades that have identified an evolving workplace. I agree with Tim, but to some degree, at some scale they are being addressed, just in a silo where there is a recognition of that need. Ava Dejoie added that what is likely going away is funding the incumbent worker program.
- Dorien Nunez provided comments, Highlighting PBS Pinchback as nation’s first black governor. On unemployment, he said the state needs to look at the demographics, because unemployment is 25 percent for black women, but 9 percent for while males. He said he hopes everyone becomes cognizant of those details. He said the state has to to teach personal financial literacy, homeownership and entrepreneurship, saying that self-employment is full employment and home-based businesses are an important part of the economy. He also encouraged getting black accounting college students to help teach math.
- Kim Hunter Reed thanked Mr. Nunez and reminded him that Dr. Boustimani provided breakdown of unemployment by demographics.
- Andrew Doss thanked the task force leaders, and asked for any final comments
- Kim Hunter Reed said she appreciated the opportunity to present. Sec. Dejoie echoed Kim’s comments, and thanked the commission for allowing then to play a role in this incredible work

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.