

AUTHORITY/HISTORY

Louisiana’s Early Childhood Care and Education Commission was established in Act 639 and has been charged with creating a vision and framework for the future of early childhood care and education in Louisiana.

2020-2021 MEETING DATES

- Monday, October 26, 2020, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Thursday, January 21, 2021, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

2020-2021 COMMISSION TASK FORCE MEETING DATES

- Thursday, November 12, 2020, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP ROLES & APPOINTING AUTHORITIES

Co-Chair: Representative Stephanie Hilferty

Co-Chair: Senator Beth Mizell

| Role | Member | Title/Organization |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Municipality that receives Head Start funding | Judy Thompson | EBR Head Start |
| Head Start program | Susan Spring, Ph.D. | Regina Coeli Head Start |
| Child advocacy or community organization | Michael Tipton | BCBSLA Foundation |
| Special-needs advocacy organization | Maria Blanco | LSU Health Sciences Center |
| Governor's Office | Anthony C. "Buddy" Leach | Office of the Governor |
| Business Representative | Ileana Ledet | Greater New Orleans, Inc. |
| Local School Superintendent | Melissa Stilley | Tangipahoa Parish Superintendent of Schools |
| Type III ELC | Alan Young | Southland Park Learning Center |
| Child advocacy or community organization | Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D. | Louisiana Policy Institute for Children |
| Parent in a publicly-funded ECE program | Theon Julien | |
| Member of the House of Representatives | Representative Stephanie Hilferty | Louisiana House of Representatives |
| Member of the House of Representatives | Representative Gary Carter | Louisiana House of Representatives |
| Business Representative | Monique Scott-Spauling | Jani King |
| Local School Superintendent | Scott Richard | Acadia Parish School System |
| Type III ELC | Monique Rouege | Carlie Care Kids |
| Child advocacy or community organization | Liz Smith | Baton Rouge Area Chamber |
| Parent in a publicly-funded ECE program | Melissa Goudeau | Early Childhood Development and Family Center of Avoyelles |
| Member of the Senate | Senator Regina Barrow | Louisiana Senate |
| Member of the Senate | Senator Beth Mizell | Louisiana Senate |
| High-performing community early childhood care and education network | Paula Polito | Beary Cherry Tree |

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE) COMMISSION

| Role | Member | Title/Organization |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| High-performing community early childhood care and education network | Cindy Rushing | Rapides Community Network |
| Nonpublic school | Dionne Frost | St. Joan of Arc Catholic School |
| Pediatrician appointed by American Academy of Pediatrics | Keith Perrin, M.D. | American Academy of Pediatrics |
| Professional expertise in the operations of a family care center | Sherry Guarisco | Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families |
| Early childhood researcher from a LA public postsecondary education institution | Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Ph.D. | Northwestern State University |
| Type I or Type II Center | Lindsey Fisher | Fisher Early Childhood Development Center |
| Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation programs within the Bureau of Family Health | Seema Dave | Louisiana Department of Health |
| Early Steps program within the Bureau of Family Health | Brenda Sharp | Louisiana Department of Health |
| Early childhood programs within the state Department of Education | Jenna Chiasson, Ph.D. | Louisiana Department of Education |
| Louisiana Head Start Collaboration Office | Kahree Wahid | Louisiana Department of Education |
| Special education programs within the DOE | Brittany Braun | Louisiana Department of Education |
| Staff member of Board of Regents | Susannah Craig, Ph.D. | Board of Regents |
| ED of Workforce Commission or designee | Donna Edwards | Louisiana Workforce Commission |
| Secretary of Economic Development or designee | Stacey Neal | Louisiana Economic Development |
| Secretary of DCFS or designee | Toni Buxton | Department of Children & Family Services |
| Professional with expertise in the socioemotional development and well-being of children from birth through age four | Charles H. Zeanah, M.D. | Tulane University |
| Early intervention researcher from a LA public postsecondary education institution | Cynthia F. DiCarlo, Ph.D. | Louisiana State University |
| Early care and education researcher from a public postsecondary education institution | Linda Flynn, Ph.D. | University of New Orleans |
| BESE member | Tony Davis | Board of Elementary & Secondary Education |
| Early childhood development and education specialist | Mary Mills | Center for Development & Learning |
| LETA Representative | Christina Melton | Louisiana Educational Television Authority |

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