

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission: Review of Workgroup Recommendations

January 29, 2019

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Consideration of Commission Recommendations and Draft Report
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

The Legislative Charge of the Commission

- Gather and analyze data and develop a plan focused on family access, affordability, and quality.
- Consider research, local coordination currently established in Louisiana, and related work done in other states to determine best practices that inform and foster continued development of local governing entities.
- Determine a sustainable infrastructure to ensure quality programs, including workforce and professional development, monitoring and assessment, coordinated enrollment, and data-informed decision making (will happen in year 2).
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
- Define a timeframe for achieving the vision and determine benchmarks for the intervening years.
- Determine the amount of funding needed to achieve affordable access to quality care and education for all children from birth through age four and recommend policies that prioritize the allocation of future funding.

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the August 1 meeting, the Commission heard from the National Governors Association, the Education Commission of the States, the University of Virginia, and leaders of Community Networks.

- High quality early learning impacts children's brain development.
- Since 2012, Louisiana has created a vision and framework to unify early childhood programs toward ensuring every child is prepared for success in kindergarten and life.
- A significant number of lead agency leaders have gone above and beyond policy requirements and have shown the path forward on local leadership toward improving access to high quality programs.
- The Commission will develop recommendations to expand access to quality in early learning programs.

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the September 6 meeting, the Commission heard from Louise Stoney, Bridget Hamre, and Elliot Regenstein.

- The state supports early childhood programs through a quality rating system linked to positive outcomes for children.
- There are a wide variety of early childhood programs in Louisiana with differing funding sources and requirements.
- Privately-run child care programs play a critical role in supporting early learning for children birth to three from all economic backgrounds.
- Additional strategies are needed to improve quality and access for children birth through four.

Review of Past Commission Discussions

At the October 3 meeting, the Commission heard from Karen Ponder on local governance.

- Local partnerships build stronger, more family-friendly early childhood systems, and get to better outcomes for all the states' children, especially those with high risk factors.
- A local governance strategy provides flexibility to respond to community needs while maximizing funding through a sharper vision, data collection system and planning.
- State government should define the parameters for local coalitions (parish, county, regional, school districts, etc.), based on the vision and goals for the coalitions' work.
- It is critical that local coalitions are funded for coordination, needs assessment, data collection and community engagement. Without dedicated and predictable funding for these foundational functions, coalitions often dissolve or become ineffective.

Consideration of Commission Recommendations and Draft Report

Review of Past Commission Workgroups

In November and January, three Commission workgroups convened to develop the legislative recommendations shared in the draft report today.

- Workgroup 1: Consideration of Guiding Principles
- Workgroup 2: Consideration of Approaches to Funding
- Workgroup 3: Refining the Legislative Recommendation

Commission members have also offered line-by-line editing support along the way.

Proposed Outline for Legislative Report

A. Executive Summary for LA B to 3

- The Need is Significant, as is the Return on Investment.
- The Solution: Learning from Louisiana's Prior Success
- Investing in a Better Future
- The Legislative Recommendation and Expected Outcomes

B. Louisiana's Early Care and Education Commission

C. Louisiana's Track Record of Success

C. Expand Pre-K Success to Louisiana's Young Children

D. A Vision for the Future of Early Care and Education in Louisiana

E. Recommendation for Legislative Action and Expected Outcomes

F. Future Actions for the Commission

- Locally-driven decision making
- Quality
- Affordability and Access
- Collaboration

The Need is Significant, as is the Return on Investment

- **Many young children in need:** There are 173,000 children in need, birth to three years old, currently living in Louisiana.
- **Many working families:** Two out of three children under the age of five have both parents or their single parent working. Louisiana's economy lost \$1.1.billion due to absences related to child care breakdowns.
- **Few quality early care and education options:** A child's brain is 90 percent fully formed by age 5. Yet, fewer than 7 percent of in need children birth to two years old and less than 33 percent of three year olds can access quality child care in Louisiana.
- **Early care and education works: Significant research shows that for every \$1 invested in high quality early care the state yields a \$7.30 return on investment.** Children who participate in high-quality early care and education programs are less likely to:
 - Require special education services, or be retained a grade in school
 - Dropout before high school graduation
 - Develop a chronic disease in adulthood or be engaged in the criminal justice system

Due to inadequate funding, the current system cannot meet the need, particularly for children birth through three. This gap negatively impacts children's learning and their families' participation in Louisiana's workforce.

The Solution: Learning From Louisiana's Prior Success

Louisiana created LA-4 and today 90% of four year olds in need have access to quality early learning.

- The impact on learning is already being seen in Louisiana: Longitudinal research on Louisiana's Pre-K students showed an increased number of students repeating kindergarten, improving test scores, and reducing the need for special education placements.
- This investment occurred over 10 years so it wasn't an overnight success but proves our state can and has made these sizable, impactful investments.
- Louisiana needs to create LA B to 3, a commitment to serve children birth to three with the same high quality care.

Investing in a Better Future

- Louisiana is scraping the bottom of US maternal and early childhood health outcomes, and has decreased workforce productivity and economic competitiveness. Without investment in early care and education, Louisiana can expect more of the same.
- With investment in early care and education through LA B to 3, Louisiana will be transformed in one generation.

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Vision: Every child in Louisiana has an equal opportunity to a quality foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed.

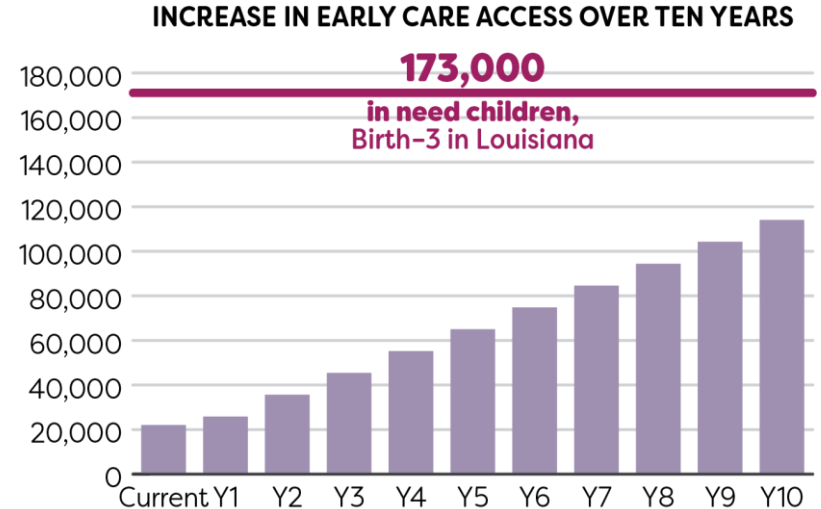
LA B to 3: Legislative Recommendation and Outcomes

The Commission recommends an investment of \$85.8 million to begin LA B to 3, and an increase of nearly that amount annually over the next decade. State investment should launch this effort with expanded, combined funding (local, state, federal, philanthropy) thereafter.

Funds will:

Expand quality seats to serve 114,000 Louisiana children in need, prioritizing children birth through three, an increase from only 22,000 children in that age range served today, and

Strengthen resources for all families, regardless of need, that support nurturing relationships with young children.



Legislative Recommendation Overview

Outcome	Output by Year 10	Initial Year Funding	Total Funding
Child Care Access	Expand access from 22,000 to 114,000 additional children, ages birth to three.	\$ 78.1 M	\$ 771 M
Quality Child Care	Scale quality, measurement, professional development and coordination	\$ 6.7 M	\$ 67 M
Family Resources	Increase voluntary, evidence-based resources and supports for parents.	\$ 1 M	\$ 1 M
Total Allocation		\$ 85.8 M	\$ 839 M

Future Considerations: The Commission, Year 2

Locally-driven decision making: The Commission will study the [Ready Start pilots](#) where (a) the community establishes a formal local governance structure for shared decision making, (b) continually measures the need for affordable access and available resources and services for children ages birth through four, (c) identifies and maximizes resources for access and quality among early learning programs and (d) determines how future dollars should be spent to improve access and quality. Lessons learned from these pilots will inform future recommendations from the Commission.

Quality: Healthy development is dependent on physical and mental health, as well as positive adult-child relationships. The Commission will study promising practices in evidence-based programs that provide guidance and assist families, particularly for infants and toddlers. Investments should be made in the most effective and impactful programs.

Future Considerations: The Commission, Year 2

Affordability and Access: Child care programs primarily serve children birth through four, and face particular challenges due to their size and administrative capacity. The Commission will study best practices, such as shared services, to maximize investments and ensure providers stay in business and are affordable to families as they increase quality.

Collaboration: The state needs to lead on funding. However, the Commission's goals cannot be reached with state dollars alone; in order to be stable, long-term, and achievable, LA B to 3 must be comprised of local, federal, philanthropic, and public-private partnership funds. The Commission will identify opportunities for greater collaboration between stakeholder groups -- state agencies, business and industry, workforce development, philanthropy -- to sustain the effort.

Public Comment

Next Steps and Adjournment

2019-2020 Commission Dates

- August 20, 2019, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- September 19, 2019, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- October 23, 2019, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- November 19, 2019, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- January 30, 2020, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm