LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood Care and Education Commission

March 2, 2021

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2021 Meeting
IV. Consideration of the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report
V. Consideration of the Louisiana Department of Education's Plan to Support Family Child Care
VI. Adjournment

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2021 Meeting

V. Consideration of the 2021 Early Childhood Care and Education Commission Recommendations and Draft Report

Early Childhood Care and Commission

Draft Report

Overview of Report

Based on feedback from Task Force and Commission Workgroup members, the goal of the report was to create a sense of urgency, portray two different economic paths that Louisiana could take, and make recommendations for steps the Legislature should take in the short and long-term.

The report includes:

- **Page 1**: *Louisiana at a Crossroads*
- **Page 2**: *Different Economic Paths for Louisiana*
- **Page 3**: *A Path to Success*
- **Page 4**: *Getting on the Right Path - Revenue Generation Options* & *The Time is Now*

As we move through the report page by page, we will call on individual Commission members to share their feedback on each page:

- What do you like about this page?
- What would you add or change?

Page 1: Louisiana at a Crossroads

Page 1: Louisiana at a Crossroads

- Introduction narrative
- Sides bar of at-a-glance stats from previous Commission reports
- Preview of recommendations
  - Invest $85.8 million of state funds to launch LA B to 3, and increase this investment by nearly that amount every year for 10 years, as recommended in the 2019 Commission report;
  - Ensure that at least $4 million is appropriated to the Early Childhood Education Fund prior to the 2021-2022 school year to match current local investment, and identify a robust source of ongoing funding for the Fund as future local investment grows; and
  - Facilitate local investment in early childhood by removing barriers to local revenue generation.
- Quote from family

  "I am a single mom with a 3-year-old daughter. Right now, I'm working at Home Instead Senior Care and I am enrolled in school 21 hours per week as a full-time student. Being able to enroll my daughter in her child care program with financial support has been the best thing in the world for us. If I didn't have child care, I wouldn't be able to do this. I couldn't raise my daughter as a single parent and continue to work and stay in school." - Sarah G., Rapides Parish

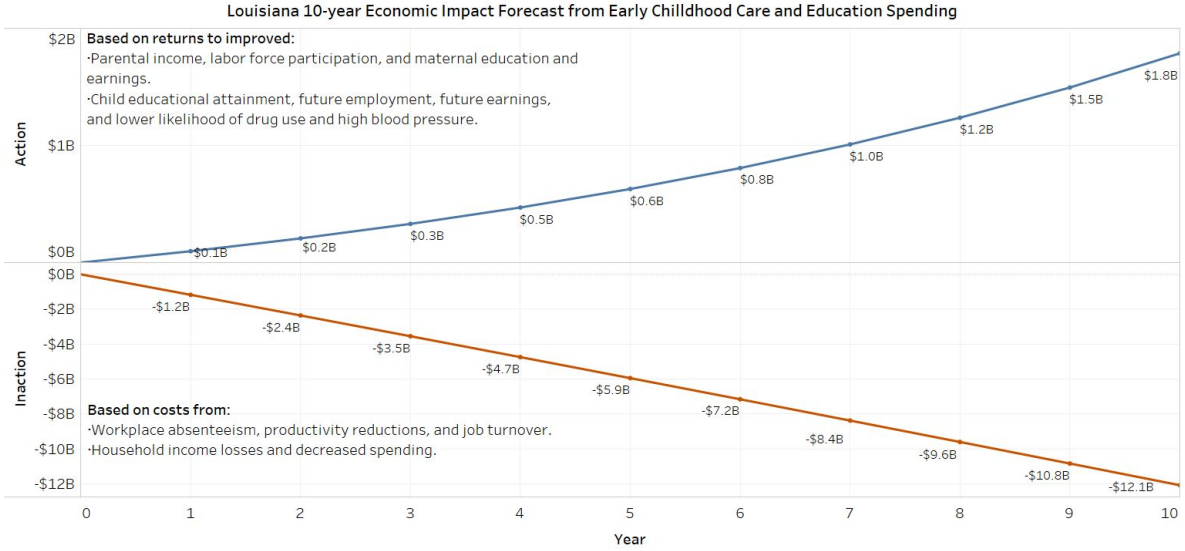
Page 2: Different Economic Paths for Louisiana

Page 2: Different Economic Paths for Louisiana

- Narrative explaining the benefits of investing and costs of inaction and a graphic produced to show the impact over time

Preliminary economic impact forecasting demonstrates that if the state were to invest **$85.8 million in early care and education now, it would see an economic benefit of $1.8 billion in ten years.**

By contrast, **if no investment is made, the state could see a compounded economic loss of $12.1 billion** in ten years.



Sources: Author analysis of García, J.L., Heckman, J.J., Duncan, E.L., & Prados, M.J. (2016). The Life-cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program. Davis, B., Bustamante, A. Bronfin, M., & Rahim, M. C. (2017). Losing ground: How Child Care Impacts Louisiana's Workforce Productivity and the State Economy.
Notes: Cost of inaction is based on the compound annual losses of $1.168 billion and the 5-year average of Louisiana gross domestic product (GDP) of 0.62% from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2015-2019. Cost of action is based on the compound annual spending of $85.8 million in quality early childhool care and education and the estimated 13% annual rate of return from García et al.

Page 2: Different Economic Paths for Louisiana

- Quotes from business sector leaders

  "Childcare is the foundation of our economy, enabling the more than 14 million parents with young children to participate in the workforce. It's clear that if we don't find long-term, cross-sector solutions to this crisis, the negative impact on our workforce and economy will be felt for years to come." - Cheryl Oldham, Senior Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

  "Many of our employees have young children. Early childhood education is critical for our workforce, so that they know their children are receiving the educational foundation necessary for future success, and they themselves can come to work knowing they can give full attention to their jobs." - Gay LeBreton, Managing Director, Chaffe & Associates

Page 2: Different Economic Paths for Louisiana

- Call out box highlighting the impacts of COVID-19 on the child care sector

Restarting the Economy after COVID: By investing in early care and education today, there will be immediate benefits to Louisiana's economy as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supporting the Struggling Child Care Field: Louisiana's child care businesses took an especially hard hit from the pandemic. From March 2020 to January 2021, the industry experienced an estimated $245 million loss (nearly $200,000 per center, excluding centers that had to close entirely). This is far more than the $189 million provided by the recent federal stimulus package to keep center doors open in the midst of this crisis. Losses would no doubt be greater without recent federal support.

An investment in child care is an investment in Louisiana's working families and small businesses.

Page 3: A Path to Success

Page 3: A Path to Success

- Task Force Recommendations:

1. **Make a bold, initial investment of $85.8 million this year, and an increase of nearly that amount annually over the next decade.**

2. **Ensure that at least $4 million is appropriated to the Early Childhood Education Fund prior to the 2021-2022 school year to match current local investment, and identify a robust source of ongoing funding for the Fund as future local investment grows.**

3. **Facilitate local revenue generation in the short- and long-term to sustain investment in early childhood.**

Page 3: A Path to Success

- A call out box highlighting local fundraising/revenue generation wins and the Ready Start Network model

  Since the implementation of this pilot in 2019, many Ready Start Networks have seen success in securing additional funds to support early childhood care and education in their community. Successes include:

  - Orleans secured $3 million from the City of New Orleans to implement the City Seats program each year
  - Caddo and Bossier established a public-private partnership with its regional community foundation to raise a projected $1 million to fund B-3 seats in Northwest Louisiana in 2021-2022
  - Jefferson anticipates securing $250,000 in local parish funding, and a potential match from Entergy to support a B-3 seats program in 2021-2022

Page 3: A Path to Success

- A quote from a Ready Start Network leader on the promise of the ECE Fund

  “The promise of the Early Childhood Education Fund match has allowed the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) and other local advocates to attract significant new investments from the City of New Orleans, foundations, and corporate donors. Knowing that their investment will leverage additional State dollars has created a strong incentive for donors to invest in early care and education -- helping us increase access and quality for those who need it most.”
  - Jen Roberts, Agenda for Children/NOEEN, Orleans Ready Start Network

Page 4: Getting on the Right Path- Revenue Generation Options

Page 4: Getting on the Right Path- Revenue Generation Options

- Broad overview of ways to generate revenue

  The Louisiana Legislature should:
  - *Commit all revenue raised from sports betting, both in-person and online, to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.*
  - *Prioritize early care and education for funding opportunities created during ongoing tax reform efforts.*
  - *Prioritize early care and education for funding generated by future annual economic growth.*
  - *Take advantage of settlements (e.g., opioid, tobacco), as they occur, to fund early care and education.*
  - *Consider promising revenue-generation strategies used successfully by other states.*

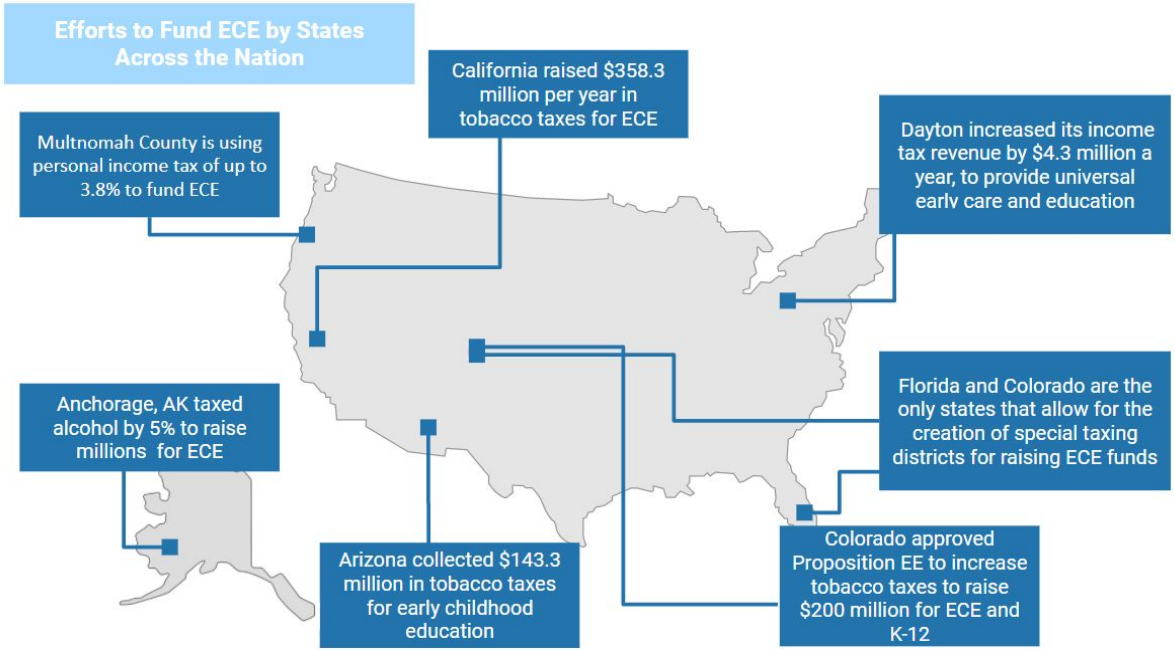
- Spotlight on sports betting

  In November 2020, sports betting was authorized in 55 of 64 parishes. As the Louisiana Legislature and policymakers design laws and regulations to govern sports betting, leaders should prioritize early care and education for revenue generated.

  The Commission recommends that Louisiana commit all revenues from sports betting, both in-person and online, to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.

Page 4: Getting on the Right Path- Revenue Generation Options

- Map displaying other states' successful revenue generation efforts



Page 4: The Time to Act is Now

- A final closing call to action

While there may be no “perfect” time to invest, the time is now to begin investing in our smallest children.

Now more than ever, Louisiana cannot afford to further delay investment in early care and education. Now is the time to lead our state down the path that is both fiscally wise and morally just. By increasing the state budget for early care and education by $85.8 million in the next state fiscal year and working closely with localities to drive revenue generation, we can help Louisiana businesses, families, and children thrive—today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Questions?

IV. Consideration of the Louisiana Department of Education's Plan to Support Family Child Care

Family Child Care in Louisiana

Family Child Care in Louisiana
Current State

- There are **more than 8,000 FCC providers** registered for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in the state, **but fewer than 250 FCC providers are currently registered with the LDOE and eligible to enroll children through CCAP**. This is due to a lack of incentives/supports in the current system.
- Currently, family child care providers **do not participate in the state's accountability system and do not have access to sufficient supports** to improve quality.
- Currently, there is no required or optional family child care license, **making Louisiana one of only two states without a family child care license**.
- There has been a **significant decline in the number of regulated family child care providers over the past decade**, but an uptick since COVID-19 suggesting supports incentivize registration/certification.
- The early childhood network model developed after **Act 3 has largely excluded family child care providers**, limiting their access to network supports.

Family Child Care in Louisiana
Why It Matters

- Family child care (FCC) is a critical source of accessible, affordable, and often high-quality child care for families in Louisiana.
- There are an estimated 8,000+ unregulated family child care providers in the state, whose practices around health, safety, and quality the Department of Education has no insight into and minimal ability to support or influence.
- Supporting family child care to enroll more children through public funds and increase the quality of their care will be essential to ensure that children across the state, including those living in rural communities, can access high-quality child early care and education.

Family Child Care in Louisiana

Licensure for Family Child Care?

FCC providers are not required to be monitored for health and safety in the state, and Louisiana is **one of only two states in the country** that currently does not have a license available for FCCs. As a result:

Children may sometimes be cared for in environments that are unsafe

High-quality FCC providers are excluded from receiving supports, resources, and incentives currently extended to licensed child care centers

FCC providers are left without options to grow their businesses

The Department’s Approach

The Department's Approach

In order to close persistent gaps in access to high-quality child care, Louisiana must include home-based family child care in its long-term strategy.

Approach:

- Pilot a family child care network model (currently in Year 2), and use the learnings from the pilot to scale a staffed family child care network
- Explore the development of a more robust system of supports and requirements for family child care, that would either require or incentivize increased health and safety and would provide additional quality supports

Family Child Care Pilot

LDOE Family Child Care Pilot

- The Department is in its second year of conducting a pilot to learn from family child care providers in the field and use the information collected to inform statewide strategy.

- The pilot has expanded to include 53 family child care providers from three regions of the state, who:
  - Receive observations using CLASS® and FCCERS®
  - Receive one-on-one coaching and training/technical assistance
  - Receive monthly professional development and support from Tulane University Mental Health Consultants
  - Attend Network meetings and training facilitated by their regional CCR&R
  - Count and report the number of enrolled children

- The pilot is being funded with PDG funding that will expire at the end of 2022.

Family Child Care Pilot
Comparisons to Other Program Types

The average CLASS score for family child care pilot participants was similar to the average CLASS score for child care in 2015-2016, the first year CLASS was used statewide in Louisiana.

Family Child Care Pilot
COVID-19 Updates

- In response to the rise in COVID-19 cases in early December, the Office of Public Health issued new guidance to consider less essential visits in the classrooms and learning homes.
- As a result, all observations, coaching visits, and mental health consultations, network meetings and training were all conducted virtually.
- The Department has provided and will continue to provide critical supports and emergency response to CCAP certified family child care educators during the pandemic.
    - Personal Protective Equipment issued to FCC homes
    - A recent increase in CCAP reimbursement rates
    - CCAP payments based on enrollment rather than attendance
    - The Federal Consolidations Appropriations Act (CAA) stipulates that states must use funding to support all child care provider types, including FCC educators
- There has been an increase in the number of family child care providers registered with Licensing and certified for CCAP since the onset of the pandemic, suggesting that the provision of supports incentivize registration/certification.

Family Child Care Pilot
COVID-19 Challenges

This sudden shift to virtual operations came with notable challenges for FCC educators as well as the professionals supporting them.

- Disparity of technology capacity and internet connectivity
- Technical assistance needed to make the virtual shift (i.e. zoom, video recording applications, tripod set-up, iPad/iPod use, etc.)
- Without an additional adult present in homes, providers and their coaches explored creative ways to capture the learning environment and interactions
- Coaches experienced a sharp learning curve in scoring observations virtually while navigating through technical issues

Family Child Care Pilot
Year 3 (2021-2022)

The Department's goal is to further expand the pilot in year three, and continue learning about the supports that are most impactful to Family Child Care.

Expand to reach greater territory across the state

- Include two to three additional regions

Increase provider participation

- Add approximately 30 additional providers

Incorporate a Tier 1 curriculum and curriculum training

- Include FCCs in the state's curriculum initiative

Long-Term Strategy

Long-Term Solutions for Family Child Care

In order to support more family child care providers to offer high-quality care that meets minimum health and safety requirements to more families across the state, the Department will explore the development of licensure for family child care.

Licensure would:

- Ensure FCC providers that become licensed are meeting comparable health and safety standards to early learning centers.
- Create opportunities for FCC providers to participate in the unified quality rating system, and associated quality improvement efforts.
- Potentially enable FCC providers to serve additional children, pending compliance with ratios and group size requirements that would be established in licensure.

Long-Term Solutions for Family Child Care
Incentivizing Licensure

By providing access to additional supports and resources, the Department could incentivize providers to become licensed and participate in the quality rating system.

- Creation of a family child care license, that would promote more rigorous health and safety practices for providers who want to become licensed
- Scholarships for CDA/ancillary certificate
- Participation in the unified quality rating system, and aligned improvement supports
- Access to financial supports, such as Curriculum Initiative funding, CCAP bonus payments, and School Readiness Tax Credits
- Participation in a staffed family child care network model, which will provide ongoing and regular support

VI. Adjournment