

Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025, 10:30am-12:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Commissioner Beth Bye, Holly Williams, Dr. Shante Hanks, Lesley Mara, Karen Pascale, Julie Giaccone, Renee Kleinman, Louis Tallarita, Patricia Bryant-Beausoleil, Karen Rainville, Edie Richard, Kimberly Oliver, Sharon Walker, Shelly Nolan, Melvette Hill, Andrean Enrique Rodriguez

A. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Commissioner Beth Bye opened the meeting and asked Early Childhood Cabinet Co-Chair Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz to kick off the meeting with opening remarks. Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz highlighted Governor Lamont's Universal Preschool Endowment legislative proposal and thanked members for all their work in the early childhood field. Commissioner Bye also thanked the Cabinet and asked for continued feedback and engagement .

B. Universal Preschool Endowment & Legislative Proposals

Commissioner Bye gave an overview of a PowerPoint presentation on Early Start Connecticut/ Universal Preschool Endowment. The presentation highlighted the different needs and issues impacting families and early childhood field. Commissioner Bye explained Governor Lamont's legislative proposal. Members asked questions and shared their experiences.

C. State Inclusion Team

Karen Pascale and Renee Kleinman gave an overview of the State Inclusion Team. They announced team members, provided historical background, highlighted past accomplishments, and shared information on current projects.

D. CCDF Waivers & Funds for the Final Rule 2024

Julie Giaccone gave brief updates on CCDF waivers and funds for the final rule 2024. She also gave an update on the professional development framework included in section six of the CCDF Plan that was submitted in October 2024. Julie asked for Cabinet members to volunteer for a subcommittee to help the CCDF with the professional development framework. She thanked the Early Childhood Cabinet for their help and partnership.

E. Early Childhood Cabinet Plan

Eloisa Melendez and Karen Pascale presented on the Early Childhood Cabinet Annual Plan. Eloisa provided background on the annual plan and summarized the content of the draft. Karen explained how the plan connects back to the federal Head Start Act of 2007. Eloisa informed members that she will email them the draft and asked members for feedback on the plan.

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment.