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# EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE DATA ADVISORY COMMISSION

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**Thursday, April 3, 2025**

1:00PM to 2:30PM

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/c/EECMass>

Minutes

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## **Commission Member Attendees:**

Amy Kershaw - Commissioner of Early Education and Care (EEC)  
Mark Reilly, Undersecretary and Chief Operating Officer, Executive Office of Education  
Victoria Bergeron - Policy Researcher, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation  
Patrick Stanton - Executive Director, Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership  
Marisa Fear - Director of Policy, Strategies for Children (*attending for Titus DosRemedios, Strategies for Children*)  
Laura Perille – President, CEO of Nurtury Early Education  
Kate Barrand – President and CEO, Horizons for Children  
Kate Warren Barnes – Head of Massachusetts Strategy and Impact, Jumpstart for Young Children  
Kate-Marie Roycroft – CEO of Alliance of MA YMCAs  
Jen Aldworth – Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs  
JD Chesloff – President and CEO, Massachusetts Business Roundtable  
Paula Durango and Harold Blanco – Owners, Paula Barn Child Care  
Emmalie Dropkin – Director of Data Planning and Evaluation for Head Start and Early Learning Programs, Community Action Pioneer Valley  
Ellen Dickenson – Research Analytics and Planning, United Way of Massachusetts Bay  
Amaris Kinne – Director of Research, Neighborhood Villages  
Adam Jones – Budget Analyst, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, and Representative from Common Start Coalition  
Andrea Howard – CEO, West End House Boys & Girls Club

## **EEC Staff Attendees:**

Amy Checkoway - Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Strategy and Research  
Ellen Song – E2C Data & Policy Analyst  
Ashley White – Director of Research  
Chris Power – Chief of Staff,  
Jocelyn Bowne – Deputy Commissioner for Workforce, Program Support & Innovation  
Adrienne Murphy – Director of Data Analytics  
Eugenia Soiles – Director of External Engagement  
Jessi Murray – Chief Product Officer, EEC

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Commissioner Kershaw provided opening remarks. Commissioner Kershaw discussed EEC's efforts to update and modernize EEC's IT systems and EEC's research and data strategy. Commissioner Kershaw shared information regarding the recently formed Policy, Research & Data division within EEC to focus on data-informed, evidence-based policies, procedures and regulations.

Deputy Commissioner Checkoway invited the members of the Commission and EEC staff to introduce themselves. Deputy Commissioner Checkoway shared an overview of the agenda. Deputy Commissioner Checkoway detailed the charge and general expectations of the Data Advisory Commission. Commission Member Chesloff and Deputy Commissioner Checkoway discussed the audience for the Commission's recommendations.

### **2. Overview of EEC Data**

- ***Overview of Key EEC Data Sources***

Adrienne Murphy, EEC Director of Data Analytics, provided an overview of EEC's current data systems and sources that are currently leveraged to inform decision making as context for Commissioner members. Director Murphy acknowledged that future meetings will provide greater detail about various data sources. Director Murphy shared three key user groups for data currently collected by EEC and detailed how the data are collected. Director Murphy also discussed some data sources that EEC can access that are not collected by the agency.

- ***Overview of New EEC Reporting Requirements***

Director Murphy expressed EEC's commitment to robust data collection and reporting.

Director Murphy detailed the data elements that EEC is statutorily obligated to report on annually, to the extent feasible, and noted if EEC currently collects each data element. Deputy Commissioner Checkoway, Deputy Commissioner Bowne, Commission Member Dropkin and Ms. Murray discussed data collection pertaining to immigration status. Deputy Commissioner Checkoway and Commission Member Stanton discussed efforts to connect and integrate with other agencies, including DESE. Commission Member Blanco discussed data collection pertaining to educators and the workforce.

Deputy Commissioner Checkoway explained some of EEC's priority data and research areas. Ms. Murray shared EEC's plans to modernize some of its current data systems, highlighting the development of new family and educator portals. Ms. Barrand and Ms. Murray discussed the importance of accessibility for the workforce and families.

### 3. Discussion

- *Commission Logistics and Next Steps*

Deputy Commissioner Checkoway shared proposed timing and focus of 2025 meetings for the Data Commission along with the plan for an initial progress report to the Legislature as well as the annual report that will be submitted by the Commission that will include recommendations in December 2025.

Commission Member Perille and Deputy Commissioner Checkoway discussed the proposed cadence of the Commission meetings and opened the meeting up for general discussion and input. Commission Members Dickenson and Warren Barnes expressed an interest in EEC's current data sharing agreements with other agencies. Commission Member Warren Barnes commented on the importance of community-based participation to collect data. Commission Member Barrand expressed interest in collecting data related to early intervention in terms of referrals and take up rates/participation. Commission Member Blanco and Chief Product Officer Murray and discussed the sensitivities of collecting unique identifiers like social security numbers and the importance of aligning data collection with policy. Commission Member Kinne and Deputy Commissioner Checkoway discussed incorporating an explanation of EEC's data sources into the initial report to the Legislature.

Deputy Commissioner Checkoway and Commissioner Kershaw provided closing remarks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM