Name/Organization	Topic/Comments
Ronald Viafore, Flamingo Early Learning	I appreciate the opportunity to share with you today some highlights from the MA ECSO Initiative. The MA ESCO Initiative includes a collaborative partnership between CLI (Children's Literacy Initiative) and UMB Strong Start, and UF Lastinger Center's Flamingo Early Learning in which I represent. Our model focused on providing program leaders with high quality skills in instructional leadership. I would like to take this time to share one of our services that we provide to program leadership teams in nearly 40 centers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Flamingo Early Learning Coaching Institute is an opportunity for program leaders to be certified through the UF Lastinger Center Coaching Program. This program provides knowledge, application and reflection of a coaching conversation cycle that promotes reflective practices in the classroom. Program leaders in Cohort 3 recently attended a two-day Coaching Certification Institute led by the Flamingo Early Learning team. (Program leaders in Cohorts 1 and 2 already participated in the Coaching Certification Program and are currently using the UF Lastinger coaching model in their centers) We were excited to see program leaders come together to learn and practice the coaching model that we developed at UF Lastinger Center. Program leaders worked with each other to implement the different components of a coaching conversation which they will conduct with teachers at their centers. Each program leader who attended the 2-day Institute will continue working with the Flamingo Early Learning team to hone their coaching conversations to be certified as a coach. The enthusiasm for learning and how to best capture ways for teachers to improve classroom practices was evident. Here are some reflective comments from the program leaders at the completion of the 2-day Institute. "I enjoyed learning about the power of data display to give teachers a visual of their learning goal and how it manifests in the classroom so they can further develop themselves." "Working with my teacher to narrow their challenges and be intentional on observations." In the coming months, program leaders will practice the coaching conversation with guidance from the Flamingo Early Learning team. The transformation from program supervisor to that of an instructional leader is evident in the current practices and forward thinking of the program leaders.
Lakeisha Powe, PoweFolk Transportation	I would like to start off by thanking Chairman Belsito and all the board members. Commissioner Kershaw and all the staff of The Department of Early Education and Care and Secretary TUTWILER.

	My name is the Lakeisha Powe I am the owner of PoweFolk Transportation. I've had the pleasure of working with the department of early education and care for 15 plus years. 1st as a childcare educator for 13yrs and now for quite some time providing transportation for family child care systems and group and school age programs in the SouthEast Region. On March 9, 2021 it was with great joy to witness the unanimous vote from the board to increase the transportation rate. The rate increase had been long overdue because there had not been an increase in approximately 10yrs but although an increase was given unfortunately it wasn't enough then and isn't now. Over 10 yrs. or more span there have been new rules implemented by EEC, DOT, and the RMV which all rules that transportation companies must follow in order to be in compliance with the above authorities. For transportation companies staying in compliance is mandatory in order to run our business effectively but most importantly for the health and safety of our families. Gas prices remain through the roof with no sign of coming down. Maintenance of vehicles. multiple inspections, the cost for commutation devices, 1st Aid & CPR, car seat purchases etc. have all risen in cost. The safety of children being transported by our company is our number one priority so we will purchase the proper safety seats and we will maintain our vehicles. Which also means we will pay the increase without an increase because our families need to be safe. Commercial Insurance is required of transportation companies and it increases yearly. In order to transport children, transportation companies must and should have their vehicles properly insured. For example, in the year 2021 -2022 our insurance payout was $14,000, in the year 2022-2023 $19,000, in the year 2023-2024 our insurance payout is $24, 000. Inflation is everywhere. It's undeniable. From the grocery store to the gas pump and adjustments need to be made. I ask today that The Department of Early Education and Care and the board not let there be another 10yrs, not another 5yrs, not even another year go by before a transportation rate increase is given. Transportation is a vital part of the childcare experience. Transportation is a needed resource for many communities especially minority communities.

	In communities where it's safer to place your child on a reliable van with a reliable company. With a company that is a part of the community. Rather than having parents walk in rain, sleet, and/or snow. Rather than to have parents waiting at bus stops and the buses may or may not show up. Rather than families that are already in need have another thing to worry about. Transportation companies matter. The EEC & Transportation company partnership is important! By giving transportation a rate increase you will help lighten our financial burden as we continue to work along with EEC in community to lighten the burden of many families in need of our services. I hope you will consider my request. Thank you for your time.