

Board of Early Education and Care

October 15, 2025

1:00AM – 4:00AM

Department of Early Education and Care

Southeast Office (Region 5)

100 Myles Standish Boulevard, Suite 100

Taunton, MA 02780

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

Members of the Board of Early Education and Care Present

Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, Secretary of Education

Amy Kershaw, Commissioner

Paul Belsito, Chair

Maria Gonzalez Moeller, Vice-Chair

Dr. Kimberly D. Lucas

George Atanasov k

Linda D. Sagor, M.D., M.P.H.

Jennifer James Price (via phone)

Jamella Lee (via phone)

Cheryl Travers (via phone)

Carolyn Kain, J.D., Designee for HHS Secretary Kate Walsh

Members of the Board of Early Education and Care Not Present

Nikki Ruiz de Luzuriaga

MINUTES

Welcome and Comments from the Chair

Chair Belsito provided welcome comments and provided an overview of the agenda.

Comments from the Secretary

Secretary Tutwiler provided brief welcome comments. Secretary Tutwiler discussed the cross-secretariat effort to develop a mental and behavioral health framework from birth through higher education and acknowledged EEC's participation in the recent Massachusetts Fatherhood Collaborative. Secretary Tutwiler highlighted the start of STEM Week

Comments from the Commissioner

Commissioner Kershaw provided an update regarding the status of revisions to the residential and placement regulations. Commissioner Kershaw provided an update regarding impacts on EEC related to the federal government shutdown. Commissioner Kershaw provided an update regarding the Inter-Agency Taskforce initiatives including the family child care capital grant program and

the Employer Child Care Innovation Fund. Commissioner Kershaw provided an update regarding the Grow ECE apprenticeship grant program. Commissioner Kershaw discussed resources for providers and families related to access to health care benefits for small businesses and digital inclusion programs. Commissioner Kershaw discussed upcoming events to celebrate STEM Week and provided an update regarding next month's Board meeting.

Statements from the Public

Chair Belsito acknowledged that there was no public comment.

Routine Business:

- Approval of minutes from September 10, 2025 Strategic Planning Session – VOTE
 - Approved unanimously with Board Member Cheryl Travers abstaining
- Approval of minutes from September 10, 2025 Meeting – VOTE
 - Approved unanimously with Board Member Cheryl Travers abstaining

Items for Discussion and Action:

- Research Partnership Update: Career Pathways Student Survey Findings

Commissioner Kershaw welcomed Amy Checkoway-EEC Deputy Commissioner of Policy, Strategy and Research, Ashley White-EEC Director of Research, and Sarah Sian-EEC Workforce Development Research, to discuss findings from the Career Pathways student survey. Deputy Commissioner Checkoway provided opening remarks. Director White provided an overview of the Career Pathways program and shared how the survey was designed. Director White discussed the survey response rate. Ms. Sian shared data related to students who participated in the survey. Ms. Sian detailed survey responses related to student motivation for participating in Career Pathways, the support they received and the impact on navigating Higher Education and professional skill growth. Ms. Sian shared responses related to professional and educational outcomes. Ms. Sian shared responses related to students' use and awareness of support services. Chair Belsito and Ms. Sian discussed responses related to improving awareness of access to child care for students at community colleges. Director White shared anecdotal responses from students who participated in the survey. Director White highlighted partners and contributors to the research. Director White discussed next steps. Vice-Chair Moeller shared her support of the Career Pathways program. Board Member Sagor and Ms. Sian discussed responses related to continuing education. Commissioner Kershaw, Chair Belsito and Board Member Kain discussed the impact of the Career Pathways program on the quality of the workforce.

- EEC Board FY27 Budget Recommendations – VOTE

Chair Belsito provided an overview of the FY27 Budget Priorities memo and asked for feedback. Board Member Kain commented that the proposed FY27 budget priorities reflect past Board

discussions. Board Member Price recommend amending the memo to call out the Community College Pathway Program.

- Vote
 - Approved unanimously with Secretary Tutwiler abstaining

Chair Belsito thanked the Board for their active participation in developing the budget priorities. Chair Belsito discussed the status of the FY27 state budget process. Commissioner Kershaw thanked the Board for their support and communication to define the budget priorities.

- Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Updates

Commissioner Kershaw provided background information on the proposed Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) formula update. She welcomed Eugenia Soiles-EEC Director of External Engagement and Ellen Song-EEC Child Care Operations and Financial Strategy Specialist and Jocelyn Bowne-EEC Deputy Commissioner for Workforce, Program Support & Innovation (via phone) to discuss the status of the C3 updates.

- Highlights of Public Comment Feedback

Director Soiles introduced herself and discussed the intention behind the collection of public feedback related to the proposed revised C3 formula. Ms. Song provided a reminder of the current C3 formula calculations. Director Soiles discussed how public comment was collected and detailed the feedback topic areas. Director Soiles and Ms. Song expressed appreciation for all the participants in the public comment process. Ms. Song discussed key themes of the public comment feedback. Chair Belsito, Commissioner Kershaw, and Ms. Song discussed feedback related to Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) access and the proposed equity adjustment. Board Member Lucas expressed appreciation for participants who provided public comment. Chair Belsito shared his experience participating in an online public comment session.

- Establish FY26 Formula – VOTE

Ms. Song detailed the proposed recommendation for the FY26 C3 formula. She clarified workforce expenditures. Director Soiles discussed upcoming opportunities for feedback. Board Member Atanasov, Vice-Chair Moeller, and Ms. Song discussed enforcement mechanisms. Commissioner Kershaw and Ms. Song discussed current program expenditures on workforce. Chair Belsito and Commissioner Kershaw discussed the intersection of workforce expenditures and development. Director Soiles shared planning and next steps for FY27

- Vote
 - Approved unanimously with Secretary Tutwiler abstaining

- IT Modernization: Family and Educator Portals

Commissioner Kershaw discussed EEC's efforts to modernize public interest technology and highlighted the ways the new portals will benefit families, programs, and educators. Commissioner Kershaw highlighted the partnerships with other agencies and explained how the initiatives are funded. Commissioner Kershaw welcomed Jessi Murray-EEC Chief Product Officer, Elyse Tibbets-EEC Priority Access Manager, and Jocelyn Bowne-EEC Deputy Commissioner for Workforce, Program Support & Innovation (via phone), to provide an update. Ms. Murray discussed current IT issues faced by families, programs, and EEC staff and outlined future goals for modernization. Ms. Murray shared the development process. Ms. Murray detailed the goals for modernizing CCFA programs and IT systems for families and providers. Ms. Murray discussed the current EEC tech systems and how the new system will simplify the process. Ms. Murray highlighted how the partnership between families, providers, and the CFFA team has positively impacted the development of the new portals. Ms. Tibbets provided an overview of the progress achieved to date. Ms. Tibbets shared the status of development and explained beta testing is being executed. Ms. Tibbets provided an overview of the Family Portal system. Chair Belsito and Ms. Tibbets discussed available supports for families to navigate the portal and provide a seamless experience. Board Member Sagor and Ms. Murray discussed language accessibility. Ms. Tibbets and Ms. Murray discussed opportunities for data collection. Ms. Tibbets highlighted the benefits of an online application. Ms. Tibbets detailed the new case management system and how it will benefit Family Access Administrators. Ms. Murray and Ms. Tibbets discussed the current status and next steps for the Family Portal. They shared next steps and the timeline for upcoming major releases. Chair Belsito and Commissioner Kershaw discussed how the Family Portal will impact access for families. Commissioner Kershaw highlighted how the modernized technology supports recent regulatory and policy reforms and will allow for integration with other state agencies. Vice-Chair Moeller and Ms. Tibbets discussed how the portal will assist Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs). Vice-Chair Moeller and Ms. Tibbets discussed future upgrades related to entitlement programs and referrals. Vice-Chair Moeller and Ms. Tibbets discussed how the portal will provide increased family education.

Ms. Murray provided an update regarding the new Educator Portal. She explained how the portal simplifies and modernizes the process for Educator Certification. Commissioner Kershaw clarified how the new educator certification will be integrated into the Educator Portal and the intention of including the current educator certification in the beta testing for the Educator Portal. Ms. Murray shared feedback received from applicants during beta testing. Ms. Murray shared the key updates to the existing application for the teacher qualification workflow.

Deputy Commissioner Bowne and Commissioner Kershaw discussed how the new Educator Portal will integrate licensing, background record checks, and CCFA to minimize data re-entry. Ms. Murray detailed the updated supervisor work verification process and the certification review process for EEC's Teacher Qualification unit. Ms. Murray shared next steps and the timeline for upcoming major releases. Ms. Murray highlighted the impact on new educators and existing educators. Commissioner Kershaw and Ms. Murray discussed partnership with other state agencies and potential impacts on the small business community. Board Member Sagor commented on the

opportunity for increased access for families. Board Member Lucas commented on the human-centered approach and how it will positively impact users. Board Member Lucas and Ms. Murray discussed privacy and security efforts to protect data and information.

Chair Belsito provided closing remarks.

Meeting Adjourned 3:30PM