



Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board

November 14, 2025

Legislative Office Building, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hearing Room 1E

Meeting-In-Person

In Attendance:

Commissioner Elena Trueworthy, Representative Kate Farrar, Jennifer Putetti, Holly Williams, Cris Jimenez-Porrata, Sandra Dill, Casey DiMaria, Lafayette (Jay) Atkinson, Jr., Dr. Monette Ferguson

Absent: Senator Ceci Maher*, Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Allyx Shiavone, Robert Woytowich

Senator Maher viewed the meeting in real time via CT-N.

Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Elena Trueworthy called the meeting to order. Representative Kate Farrar and Commissioner Elena Trueworthy offered welcoming remarks. The Board members in attendance introduced themselves.

Approval of September 19, 2025, Minutes

The minutes from September 19, 2026, Special Meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Elena Trueworthy requested a motion to approve the minutes. Rep. Farrar made a motion to approve the minutes, and Holly Williams seconded. Board members in attendance approved the minutes with no revisions.

Treasurer's Update

Jennifer Putetti, Director of Strategic Initiatives, provided an update on behalf of the Office of the Treasurer. She reported that as of October 31, 2025, the Endowment balance had

reached \$318 million, reflecting continued steady growth. Investment performance and allocations were reviewed, and drawdown considerations were discussed.

Office of Early Childhood Update

Commissioner Elena Trueworthy provided updates on OEC programs and initiatives, the FY26 budget, and Endowment-funded impacts:

- **Smart Start:** Fifteen new classrooms launched across eight districts with \$1.275 million in Endowment funds. Additional capital improvement requests totaling \$1.67 million are under review for FY27.
- **Early Start CT:** Expansion of approximately 1,000 childcare spaces supported by a \$6 million allocation. A new Request for Applications (RFA) is expected to be released in late fall 2025. Providers will also see per-space rate increases of up to 8%.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Commissioner Trueworthy reviewed the statutory requirements for the Board's January 1, 2026, Annual Report and the longer-term Impact Analysis due in 2032 and 5 years onward.
- **Data Needs:** Discussion included the need to enhance data collection to support future reporting, including provider demographics, space distribution by age group, and income band information.

Board members requested clarification on specific questions and provided feedback on data needs, assumptions, and future reporting structures.

Commissioner Elena Trueworthy responded to questions from Jennifer Putetti regarding the difference between Smart Start and Early Start CT, Sandra Dill regarding information about the process for family child care providers, Dr. Monette Ferguson regarding uses of the Endowment for expansion and the criteria for expansion, Rep. Kate Farrar regarding the process and timeline for the Request for Applications and requested an updated budget that reflects actual uses of funds in addition to projected uses, Sandra Dill regarding support for family providers until the full roll out of Care 4 Kids, Jay Atkins, Jr. regarding the distinction between an RFA and RFP process, Dr. Monette Ferguson regarding support for providers to prepare for the release of the RFA, Rep. Kate Farrar regarding a specific contact person at OEC for providers responding to the RFA, Sandra Dill regarding the target number of family care providers receiving funds in this round.

Feedback was provided by Holly Williams regarding data collection, Cris Jiminez-Porrata regarding family demographic data, Dr. Monette Ferguson regarding data that illustrates impact of childcare, and Casey DiMaria regarding child care employee wellness data, Jay Atkins, Jr. regarding data to illustrate impact on employers, Rep. Kate Farrar regarding data

on the impact on affordability for families, workforce wages and retention, and inclusion of qualitative data.

Annual Public Hearing

Rep. Farrar reviewed preparations for the December 10, 2025, Annual Public Hearing, scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 2A, with a virtual component also available. The Board examined outreach materials and noted the public sign-up process for testimony.

Planning Ahead

Rep. Farrar led a discussion with the Board, reviewing outcomes from the November listening sessions and the public hearing on December 10, which will inform both the January 9, 2026, Advisory Board meeting and January 1, 2026, Annual Report before its final submission to the legislature for review and recommendations.

Also discussed were the April 10, 2026, Advisory Board meeting and the estimated FY25 surplus, which will be transferred to the Endowment by Treasurer Erick Russell on June 30, 2026.

Members additionally discussed strategies to sustain strong engagement with families and providers throughout the implementation of Early Start CT and Smart Start expansions.

Action item

Rep. Farrar discussed a document that will be shared on the Office of the Treasurer's website after today's meeting, outlining the Board's statutory responsibilities leading up to the fiscal year surplus fund transfer into the Endowment in June.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned following closing remarks from Commissioner Elena Trueworthy.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.