



## Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board

*Special Meeting, April 10, 2026*

*Office of the Treasurer, 165 Capitol Avenue, Conference Rooms G006D and G007E*

*Meeting-In-Person and Virtual Platform*

### **In Attendance:**

Senator Ceci Maher, Commissioner Elena Trueworthy, Representative Kate Farrar (virtual), Holly Williams, Casey Dimaria (virtual), Dr. Monette Ferguson, Treasurer Erick Russell, Allyx Shiovone (virtual), Suzanne Slater (virtual), Sandra Dill (virtual), Cristopher Jimenez-Porrata (virtual), Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker (virtual)

Absent: Robert Woytowich,

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Tri-Chairs Senator Ceci Maher, Commissioner Elena Trueworthy, and Representative Kate Farrar opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Representative Farrar highlighted the end of the legislative session and noted that the recently passed budget includes a \$300 million allocation to the Endowment. She also shared that the Tri-Chairs will circulate information regarding additional statutory changes impacting the Endowment and the Board.

### **Early Childhood Education Portal Update and Discussion**

Jill Marini (Childcare Fund Administrator, OEC) and Michelle Abrahamson (Client Success Manager, DAS) provided an overview of the new one-entry portal for OEC, childcare providers, and families. The goal of the portal, authorized under Public Act 25-82, is to simplify a fragmented system and improve equitable access to services.

Board members asked a range of questions, including:

- Senator Maher: models used in other states and plans for a marketing strategy

- Dr. Ferguson: addressing varied levels of digital literacy and details on pilot phases
- Cristopher Jimenez-Porrata: language accessibility
- Representative Farrar: funding sources, use of Endowment dollars this fiscal year, development timeline, and opportunities for advisory board involvement
- Commissioner Russell-Tucker: portal content and services available to families

### **Health Insurance Subsidy Study Presentation and Discussion**

Susan Rich-Bye (Access Health CT) presented an overview of Access Health CT, and Ren Zhong (Wakely Consulting) presented the findings of the Health Insurance Subsidy Study. The presentation covered the study's methodology and data limitations, the range of potential solutions to expand affordable health insurance access for childcare workers, and Wakely's recommendation that the Board adopt an income-based subsidy model.

They also described potential communication and enrollment assistance strategies for eligible workers.

Board members raised questions regarding:

- statutory requirements limiting the subsidy to plans purchased through the marketplace (Holly Williams)
- impacts on larger childcare providers and employees relying on employer-sponsored coverage (Dr. Ferguson)
- support for providers who already have access to Medicare or other coverage, and prioritization of uninsured and low-income educators (Sandra Dill)
- additional detail on the income-based plan tiers (Representative Farrar)
- timing of open enrollment and coverage periods (Commissioner Trueworthy)
- adequacy of the \$10 million allocation and related reporting requirements (Dr. Ferguson)

Senator Maher and Commissioner Trueworthy noted that the Advisory Board will hold another special meeting in June to vote on the subsidy recommendation. Board members were encouraged to send additional questions to the Tri-Chairs.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.