



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

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, Sandra Dill, Dr. Monette Ferguson, Rep. Kate Farrar, Jay Atkins, Jr., Cris Jiminez-Porrata, and Casey DiMaria.

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.