

# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

September 16, 2022  
Meeting Notes  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

[View meeting materials and watch recording.](#)



# OPENING REMARKS & ROLL CALL

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor  
State of Connecticut

# Opening Remarks

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz calls meeting to order and offers opening remarks:

- Lt. Governor introduces today's topic on housing and child care and presenters Commissioner Beth Bye from the Office of Early Childhood and Deputy Commissioner Shanté Hanks of the Department of Housing.

# Member Agencies

Lt. Governor asks Kari Sullivan Custer, State Department of Education (SDE) to conduct the roll call.

- Office of the Lieutenant Governor: The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, Chair, and Christine Jean-Louis, General Counsel
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU): Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Dean of the College of Education, Southern Connecticut State University
- Department of Administrative Services (DAS): Doug Casey, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology
- Department of Children and Families (DCF): Vannessa Dorantes, Commissioner
- Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD): (Not present)
- Department of Housing (DoH): Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner, Shanté Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, and Steve DiLella, Director of Individual and Family Support Program Unit
- Department of Public Health (DPH): (Not present)
- Department of Social Services (DSS): Astread Ferron-Poole, Chief of Staff
- Judicial Branch: Patricia Nunez, Program Manager
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC): Beth Bye, Commissioner, Jenffier Jones, Education Consultant, and Elena Trueworthy, Director, CT Head Start Collaboration Office
- Office of Policy and Management (OPM): Holly Williams, Director, Fiscal and Program Policy Section
- State Department of Education (SDE): Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, John Frassinelli, and Kari Sullivan-Custer,

# Agenda

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz reviews the agenda noting that the educational technology discussion will be co-facilitated by Commissioner Beth Bye, Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno, and Shanté Hanks. She further notes that other agencies with comments are welcome to participate in the discussion.

## **I. Opening Remarks & Roll Call**

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut

## **II. Acceptance of Minutes and Follow-up from Last Meeting Discussion**

## **III. Annual Report per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16nn(b)(3)**

## **IV. Connecting Housing and Child Care**

Beth Bye, Commissioner, OEC  
Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner, DoH  
Shanté Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, DoH

## **IV. Next Steps**

## **V. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

# Acceptance of Minutes and 2022 Annual Report

Topic	Notes
June 7, 2022, Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lt. Governor notes the the topic of discussion was the use of technology to close the achievement gap.</li><li>• Lt. Governor notes that meeting minutes were circulated in draft to Council for review and edits received have been made.</li><li>• Lt. Governor notes that if anyone has corrections at this time to let her know and, seeing none, asks if there are objections to accepting minutes as final.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No objections; June 7, 2022, minutes accepted as final.</li></ul></li></ul>
Draft Annual Report to the Legislature per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16nn(b)(3)	<p>Lt. Governor presents and reviews the proposed Annual Report :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlights that there have been five meetings since the past report and reviews topics discussed.</li><li>• States that the draft has been circulated to Council Members and designees in preparation for today's meeting.</li><li>• Notes a change on page 3, add Department of Housing Commissioner as a presenter for today's meeting.</li><li>• Further notes that the report will be delivered to the legislature on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If members have any questions or edits, to please get them to Kari Sullivan Custer or Christine Jean-Louis by 4 p.m. Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.</li></ul>

Lt. Governor introduces Commissioner Bye to kick-off the housing and child care presentation and discussion.



# HOUSING AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Presenters in order of appearance:

- Beth Bye, Commissioner, OEC
- Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner, DoH
- Steve DiLella, Director of Individual and Family Support Program Unit, DoH
- Elena Trueworthy, Director, Head Start Collaboration Office
- Jennifer Jones, Education Consultant, OEC
- Ruth White, Executive Director, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
- Shanté Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, DoH

Presentation and discussion are recorded and available on CT-N.

<https://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?id=21024&jwsourc=cl>

# A HEAD START ON HOUSING FOR CONNECTICUT'S FAMILIES

Meeting of the Interagency Council

September 16, 2022



Connecticut Office  
of Early Childhood





## What We Will Discuss Today

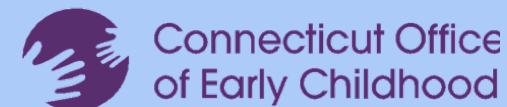
- Introductions & Overview
- Initiative Partners & Head Start grantees
- Families & Partners Behind the Vouchers
- Where We Are
- What's Next
- Question & Answer

## National-level data on Family Homelessness

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- In 2018 nearly 1.5 million children experienced homelessness
- 6% of these minor children were under the age of six.
- About nine percent of children under age six experiencing homelessness (127,227 children\*) were enrolled in **Head Start, Early Head Start**, or programs funded with federal dollars through the McKinney-Vento (homeless assistance) grants.

*\*This number does not include state and locally funded programs.*



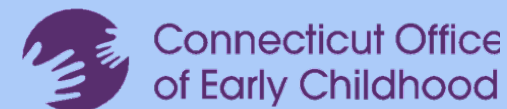
# Overview of Head Start on Housing Initiative

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The Connecticut Department of Housing earmarked 25 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) vouchers for families whose children are participating in CT's Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs.

In June 2022, Governor Lamont and the state agencies announced an additional 35 Section 8 vouchers for this initiative.

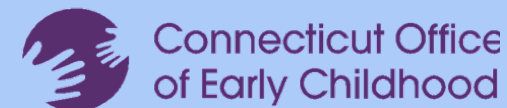
Supporting and aligning with the current Coordinated Access Network (CAN) system with the goal of ending family homelessness in Connecticut



# Housing is a platform for healthy child and family development

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- The importance of stable housing and economic security in a child's life cannot be overstated. Children in owned or affordably rented homes consistently fare better on health, developmental, and academic variables
- The ***Family Options Study*** is a randomized controlled study of the impact of permanent affordable housing subsidies for homeless families funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Access to deep permanent housing subsidies produces substantial benefits for families



## Initiative Partners

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- Connecticut Department of Housing
- Connecticut Office of Early Childhood
- National Center for Housing and Child Welfare
- Connecticut Head Start Association



Connecticut Office  
of Early Childhood

# Head Start Programs

- Alliance for Community Empowerment, Bridgeport
- LULAC Head Start, New Haven
- ACES Early Head Start, Middletown
- Stowe Early Learning Center, Enfield
- ECHN Early Head Start, Manchester/Vernon
- More programs currently being onboarded



# Families & Partners Behind the Vouchers



*Meghan & Donald  
Head Start family housed through  
initiative*



*Dr. Monette Ferguson, Executive Director of the  
Alliance for Community Empowerment  
Steve DiLella, Department of Housing*



*ACES Head Start Staff*



Connecticut Office  
of Early Childhood

# A HEAD START ON HOUSING FOR CT FAMILIES



Families love stability. When you rent to a family with young children, you're looking at years of long-term tenants with little turnover.

## WHY RENT TO HEAD START FAMILIES?

- ◆ Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children
- ◆ Programs support the whole family with resources and mentors to be successful
- ◆ Rental assistance guarantees reliable, on-time payments

Interested in finding families to rent to?  
Would you like to be a part of this initiative?  
Call Betsy (XXX)XXX-XXXX.



Connecticut Office  
of Early Childhood

## A statewide Landlord Recruitment Campaign



## Where We Are

- As of September 2022:
  - 21 RAP vouchers assigned to Head Start families
  - 16 families housed!
  - 3 apartment inspections pending
  - 2 apartment searches underway



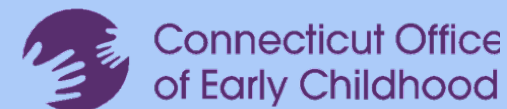
Erica & her son  
Early Head Start family housed through initiative



## What's Next?

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- Facilitating housing search and successful lease-up of identified HS families
- Expanding pool of landlords and recruitment efforts
- Continue to on-board more Head Start programs to receive vouchers and support families
- Phase 2 – Currently expanding access to Section 8 with the Department of Housing administration plan revision and additional 35 vouchers



# Question, Answer & Thank You!

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Learn more at <https://headstartonhousingct.com/>



# Next Steps

*Lt. Governor thanks each presenter and then reviews next steps.*

2022 Meeting Schedule	December 13, 2022 (all meetings will be held from 1 to 3 p.m.)
Preparation and planning for future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lieutenant Governor shares that the Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Branch will facilitate discussion on the DCF education unit that will provide administrative oversight of education for youth in juvenile justice facilities and the Fatherhood Initiative</li></ul> <p>Lt. Governor reviews potential topics for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EBT and food insecurity</li><li>• EdSight Data Portal</li></ul> <p>Lt. Governor asks that Council members keep three things in mind for future meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify any applicable Task Force Report Results Statement(s) and policy recommendations with respect to the information you are sharing</li><li>2. Explain how any other agencies might help advance the work, and invite any relevant non-Council member agencies to participate in the meeting; and</li><li>3. Identify any existing or proposed legislation, as may be applicable</li></ol> <p>Lt. Governor additionally reminds the Council to be proactive about sharing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Program updates and measured progress with respect to existing programs</li><li>2. Any new initiatives consistent with goals of the Council,</li><li>3. Any proposed legislation relevant to the work of the Council and highlights the child's mental health bill that was signed by the Governor as a topic that should be in our report.</li></ol> <p>Lt. Governor asks for any comments or questions.</p>

Closure/Meeting Adjourned

