



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Virtual (via Zoom)

Council Members Present: Representative Terry Alexander, Frances Brown Anderson, Tony Catone, Jacque Curtin, Mary Lynne Diggs, Dr. James Durant, John Hayes, Senator Greg Hembree, Jack McBride, Chairman Dave Morley, Dorothy Priester, Roger Pryor, Dr. Brannon Traxler, Dr. Amy Williams, Sue Williams, Wes Wooten

Council Members Absent: Senator Jason Elliott, Representative Shannon Erickson, Constance Holloway, Jesica Mackey, Eunice Medina, Ellen Weaver

Others Present: Toni Able, Emika Aroh, Laura Baker, Iris Ballen-Morant, Victoria Barker, Gina Beebe, P. Black, Michele Bowers, Tekethia Burrell, Dr. Crystal Campbell, Kim Chariker, Kerry Cordan, Nora Curiel, Dr. Dawkins, Dwana Doctor, Rudell DuBose, Antionetta Duncan, Elliott Epps, Kathy Fitzgerald, Jessica Fluker, Rosa Fulmore, Quentin Gaddy, Betty Gardiner, Rebecca Goforth, Caroline Goins, Alisha Green, Santasha Highley, Kenna Hoover, Samantha Ingram, Kathy Jenkins, Kristine Jenkins, Lexi Jones, Elizabeth Kabalka, Janice Kilburn, Shaji Kuriakose, JaVonna Lewis, Kristen Martocchio, Morgan Maxwell, Joy Mazur, Tyshica McConner, Darnell Byrd McPherson, David O'Kelly, Karen Oliver, Janet Parenti, Felicia Patrick, LaVonda Paul, Shayla Pettigrew, Alexis D. Pipkins, Duchett Polite, Dorothy Priester, Emily Prillaman, Austin Reed, Cindy Riley, Kate Roach, Delores Rock, LaMyra Sanders, Olivia Sapier, Cheryl Scales, DeAcia Shipman, Sheila Silon, Martha Strickland, Cindy Taubenkimel, Nicole Thomas, Ann Vandervliet, Jo Wallace, Betty Washington, Deloris Washington, Patti Wilkes, Edward Williams, Jade Wright

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m.

Chairman Dave Morley asked for a motion to move agenda items III and IV to the next meeting and adopt the agenda as modified. Dorothy Priester made the motion, Jack McBride seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the March 19, 2026 minutes. Jack McBride made the motion, seconded by Dorothy Priester. The motion was unanimously approved.

Michele Bowers, Department of Social Services Program Manager II, shared that DSS will continue to serve protected families in Strong Start. To prepare for their next state plan, CCDF asks DSS to conduct a market rate survey every three years. The final report from previous years is on the ECAC website. Alisha Green, Director of the Department of Education, shared that they are striving to braid further learning with First Steps through the pilot CLASS observations. Mary Lynne Diggs, Director of Head Start, shared that they will be in Washington D.C. next month and hopefully have a Head Start in all 46 counties. Dr. Traxler, Interim Director of the Department of Public Health, was welcomed to ECAC. She shared that DPH has a new State WIC Director, Jacob Myers.

Wes Wooten asked Michele Bowers if practices will change because of funding changes. She replied that even with allocated funding, things will change without additional funding.

Ann Vandervliet acknowledged Martha Strickland's return to work after bereavement leave and thanked her for her efforts.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Amy Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jacque Curtin. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.