



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee

Julia Connor  
Sheila Grady  
Brian Greenleaf  
Lisa Houlihan  
Dustin Huguenin  
Michael Lanz  
Diane Lasher-Penti  
Sharon McLaughlin  
Tung Nguyen  
Susan Phillips  
Sgt. Brian Santa  
Lori Spielman  
Rebecca Stack  
Timothy Webb  
Frederica Weeks  
James York

Walter Lee  
Chairman

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2022  
Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Walter Lee, Julia Connor, Rebecca Stack, Diane Lasher-Penti, \*Sharon McLaughlin, James York, Dustin Huguenin, Frederica Weeks

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lori Spielman, Timothy Webb, Sheila Grady, Brian Greenleaf, Lisa Houlihan, Michael Lanz, Susan Phillips, Sgt. Brian Santa, Tung Nguyen

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Patrice Sulik, North Central District Health Department

(\*Present via ZOOM)

- I. Call to Order: Chairman Walter Lee called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) to order at 2:02 p.m.
- II. Citizens' Forum [non-agenda items] No one came forward.
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. November 23, 2021

MOVED (STACK), SECONDED (WEEKS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AD HOC LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING.

IV. Current State and Federal Guidance and Orders

1. Governor Lamont's Latest Guidance

Mr. Lee stated that as of March 19, 2022 the final guidelines affecting businesses and municipalities were lifted. Back in early March, the mask mandates were also dropped, allowing high school and recreational sports activities to return to normal. Each school district was given the opportunity to vote with their Board of Education regarding mask requirements. Mr. Huguenin asked if students are still required to wear masks on the buses; Mr. Lee said no.

V. Ellington Recovery

A. Updates:

1. FEMA Update: Mr. Lee stated that there have been no additional updates from FEMA. Mr. Lee stated that the Town has established an American Rescue Plan Task Force and they are currently accepting applications until April 21, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

2. COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Information: Mr. Lee provided an overview of COVID-19 cases from November of 2021 through March of 2022. Currently, Ellington is in the gray category, which is 0.5 COVID-19 cases per day. Mr. Lee stated the North Central District

Health Department has transitioned monthly meetings and that they are looking to transition to an as-needed basis. Mr. Lee also said that town-wide vaccination rates are on average with the state numbers; with the most vulnerable age group of 65 and older at a 100% vaccination rate. He also added that currently, most of the state funded vaccination clinics and testing facilities have slowed down, with the majority of patients visiting their primary care physicians or urgent care locations. Mr. Lee stated that since the last meeting, the Town of Ellington has distributed over 19,000 N-95 masks to the community, as well as 2,600 rapid home test kits. Mr. Lee thanked the CERT team and the office staff for all of their continued efforts.

3. Ellington Businesses Update: Mr. Lee stated that Mr. Lanz was unable to attend today; however, he provided a letter for Mr. Lee to share with members [ATTACHED]. In the letter Mr. Lee read, Mr. Lanz stated that the State of Connecticut's office of Early Childhood has provided all licensed and DCEX child care programs in Connecticut with N-95 masks for child care staff, distributed COVID home testing kits for child care staff and children in their care, set up a weekly online reporting system and obtained additional funds for the Ready-Set-Rebuild CT's child care recovery plan [ATTACHED].. As stated in the letter, these funds will be distributed to all programs that applied for and received funds when it was originally implemented in late 2021. Mr. Lanz's update also indicated that enrollment is improving; however, staffing is still a struggle. He also shared that supply chain problems are still concerning, with the cost of basic supplies and tools increasing.

4. Ellington Public Schools Update: Mr. Lee stated that he has not received any emails or correspondence from the Board of Education or the Superintendent in the last month stating that any students have been COVID positive or sent home, which is a significant improvement. Masks are no longer required to be worn by students or staff in the schools. Ms. Weeks asked if students or spectators were required to wear masks for sporting events. Mr. Lee said that requirement was dropped in February of 2022; Mr. Huguenin confirmed.

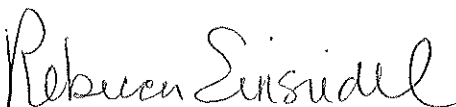
B. Other:

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to suggest a motion be made to suspend the LTRC's regularly scheduled meetings, due to significant improvement in the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, unless and until circumstances warrant reconvening. Mr. Lee said that in the meantime, he will continue to keep the LTRC members apprised, through email, of information regarding COVID-19 related issues. He asked Committee members to contact him, should they determine that scheduling a meeting would be beneficial.

MOVED (LEE), SECONDED (YORK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SUSPEND REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE.

VI. Adjournment

MOVED (CONNOR), SECONDED (STACK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE AT 2:15 PM.

Submitted by:   
Rebecca Einsiedel, Recording Secretary



March 16, 2022

Rebecca Einsiedel  
Administrative Assistant / Recording Secretary  
First Selectman's Office

Dear Rebecca,

As I am unable to attend the March Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee meeting on March 22, I would like to submit the following information for the Ellington Businesses Update part of the agenda.

As it pertains to all licensed and DCEX child care programs in Connecticut, the State of Connecticut through the Office of Early Childhood has:

- distributed N95 Masks for use by child care staff
- distributed COVID home testing kits for use by child care staff and children in their care
- set up a weekly online COVID-19 case positivity reporting system that can be accessed at [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-nyLEd2juUiwJjH\\_abtzi-XnLB2c4-RLhUuoE9uLWJJUNURSR09GNIBBWFVIMIFaQ1BGUzcxMFNDUy4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-nyLEd2juUiwJjH_abtzi-XnLB2c4-RLhUuoE9uLWJJUNURSR09GNIBBWFVIMIFaQ1BGUzcxMFNDUy4u)
- obtained additional funds for the Ready-Set-Rebuild ct's child care recovery plan. These funds will be distributed to all programs that applied for and received funds when this program was originally implemented in late 2021. I have attached a copy of the announcement.

As it pertains to all licensed and DCEX child care programs in Connecticut, the Office of Early Childhood has provided the following guidance:

- 'The legislature has extended the public health emergency and a number of executive orders. The requirement for COVID-19 vaccination and testing by state employees and covered workers in schools and child care facilities was not extended and is no longer in effect as of February 15, 2022. While the authority to require masks in schools and child care was extended through June 30, 2022, Governor Lamont and Public Health Commissioner Juthani have recommended that the mask requirements in schools and child care end at the end of February. The Office of Early Childhood will no longer mandate mask wearing for children and staff effective March 1, 2022. Individual child care programs may choose to implement their own mask wearing policies or requirements. Our current guidance continues to recommend mask wearing, given the current levels of community infections and the data about cases of COVID-19 in child care settings. We also continue to recommend implementing other public health strategies such as social distancing, cohorting, and monitoring of children's and staff's health to help mitigate spread of the disease.'

It is my understanding that area child care facilities are seeing enrollment improve as more families are returning to the workplace. Staffing is still a struggle and it is hoped that this will improve over the short term.



March 16, 2022 - page 2

In speaking with other area businesses, everyone seems glad to be returning to life sans mandates. Lessons and protocols for staying healthy and mitigating risk have not been abandoned altogether. Each business, including ours, has kept some or most risk mitigation protocols in place, providing guidance for mask wearing, social distancing, and continuing to offer hand sanitizers to their staff and the public.

Supply chain problems brought on by the pandemic and other world events has touched every local business. While products are generally available or being produced when parts get delivered, shipping delays have impacted them getting to the consumers. The child care industry has seen delays in getting basic supplies and tools and has seen sharp increases in costs when these items can be had.

Michael E Lanz

Member—Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee

## Scotty's Kiddy Korner

---

**From:** childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org <childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** skkpcdc@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Announcement - Additional Stabilization Payment

# READY = SET REBUILD

ct's child care recovery plan

## Announcement of Additional Stabilization Payment

In early 2021, Governor Lamont assigned \$120 Million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) stabilization funding to go out to all licensed and DCEX child care programs in Connecticut to support operations at this challenging time. OEC distributed those funds through an application process from late Spring through Fall of 2021. Because not all programs applied, there are funds remaining and it was the Governor's intent that all of these funds be distributed to child care programs.

After careful consideration, OEC will be sending an additional payment to each child care program that completed the previous application and received stabilization funds. OEC added about \$4 Million from other ARPA initiatives to the assigned stabilization funds to be able to reach all eligible programs. Each program will receive a percentage of their previous stabilization payment. Please see <https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/ready-set-rebuild/stabilization-funding/faq> on how that percentage is being calculated.

We expect this application to be ready to launch in late March, so please watch for an email from [childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org](mailto:childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org). You will then complete a brief application and attestation for each license number, as you did last time, and the funds will arrive as soon as possible. It usually takes about 4 weeks.

For additional information on this funding opportunity, please visit <https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/ready-set-rebuild/stabilization-funding/> call 2-1-1 Child Care at 800-505-1000 or email [childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org](mailto:childcarefunding@ctunitedway.org). Be sure to have your license number handy.

Thank you for participating in the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood's Child Care Program Stabilization Funding Program and for providing quality early care and education to our youngest children!

## Anuncio de Pago Adicional de Estabilización

A principios de 2021, el gobernador Lamont asignó 120 millones de dólares de fondos de estabilización de la American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA, Ley Federal de Plan de Rescate Estadounidense de 2021) a todos los programas de cuidado infantil con licencia y DCEX en Connecticut para apoyar las operaciones en este momento difícil. La Oficina de la Primera Infancia (OEC) de Connecticut distribuyó esos fondos mediante un proceso de solicitud desde finales de la primavera hasta el otoño de

