

**Ready Start Terrebonne
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2025 | 8:30 | Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce Office**

PRESENT: Rebecca Bradford, Michael Trahan, Matthew Armand, Nicol Montiville, Michael Blanchard, Kelli Varando, Katherine Theriot

ABSENT: Lille Brunet, Sandy Holloway, Stacey Soulet

STAFF: Gracie Detiveaux, Kami Babin, Michelle Miller, Michele Lopez

PRESIDING: Mrs. Montiville called the meeting to order.

Ready Start updates - Mrs. Detiveaux

CCAP now has a two year wait list for families. This reinforces the need to assist the community with childcare assistance tuition.

The Danos Grant was submitted on August 28th; Gracie met with Marc Danos about contributing to the fund. Mr. Danos was interested in contributing, but was hesitant due to the fund's new nature. RST asked for 50,000 through this grant to fund five children. We should hear if the grant has been approved by January 2026. Gracie met with Ms. Katie Portier, head of the rotary, about RST being the benefit of the Cast Iron Cookoff. RST is currently a very strong contender via Ms. Portier. The beneficiary of the Cast Iron Cook Off typically receives around 10,000. RST will also be starting to offer a form of parenting classes soon. Funds from the cook off could potentially be used for these classes as well. RST will officially apply to be the beneficiary of the cook off. The RST Council would be responsible for approving where exactly the use of these funds would go.

New - RST will begin doing a monthly family spotlight to highlight a family that has benefitted from childcare funding to promote and explain how this assistance has positively impacted their family. This would include short videos and social media posts to advertise that this directly benefits our local families.

The Parent Pathway is a new parenting engagement piece RST is offering; the first one will be held on October 28th. Gracie is looking for local donors to help incentivize parents to attend. The first Parent Pathway will be offered by Early Childhood Coach Michelle Miller. It will focus on the effects of screen time on young children, as well as other healthy habits to implement in the home.

Gracie is making connections with some local businesses to help promote the importance of early childhood education. Some prospective businesses include

K&B, Baywater, and TBaker Smith. Gracie is looking to just promote and raise awareness with the endorsement of these businesses.

Mrs. Armand spoke about learning from the Jefferson Ready Start program through some contacts there in regard to her position with the Bayou Community Foundation. Mrs. Armand is eager to provide more support to RST in the future.

Mrs. Gracie shared that enrollment in the Type III centers is currently very low, though waitlists for CCAP children are very long.

Kami Babin offers the idea of subsidizing tuition for some families, as a way to impact more families with less funds. Mrs. Gracie considered this possibility and agreed that the council would have to research to make this kind of decision.

Mrs. Gracie emphasizes that brand awareness is a big focus for RST currently.

If RST is chosen for Cast Iron Cook off, volunteers would be needed.

Mrs. Gracie highlighted the Ready Start blue print, which has to be updated each year. The council is asked to review the blue prints before the next meeting. Mrs. Gracie will send electronic copies of the blueprint as well.

The council discusses possible options to provide lunch for the first Parent Pathway meeting. NVI commits to provide lunch.

OTHER BUSINESS: No other business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Montiville adjourns the meeting at 9:05am.