

## *Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes*

April 5, 2024 from 11:00am – 1:00pm  
Teleconference via Zoom

### **Attendance**

- Katherine Abba, Ph.D. (Faculty, Child Development Program for Houston Community College)
- Sarah Abrahams (Deputy Chief Officer of Prevention and Early Intervention for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services)
- Weldon Beard (President of the Texas Head Start Association)
- Terri Breeden (Section 619 Lead Coordinator for the Texas Education Agency)
- April Crawford (Co-Director of the Children's Learning Institute, UT Health Science Center at Houston)
- Rachelle Daniel (Director of Daycare Regional Operations for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission)
- Alferma Giles (Director of the Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office at the Children's Learning Institute, UT Health Science Center at Houston)
- Melissa Hoisington (Franchise owner with Primrose Schools and former President of the Texas Licensed Child Care Association)
- Becky Huss-Keeler (Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake)
- Kim Kofron (Director of Early Childhood Education for Children at Risk)
- Tori Lee (Director of Early Childhood for Texas Education Agency)
- Beatrice Mata (Director of Early Childhood Education for the Ector County Independent School District)
- Marisela Nava (Director of Texas Southmost College Early Childhood Center)
- Stephanie Rubin (CEO of Texans Care for Children)
- Amber Scanlan (Senior Vice President and Director of Client and Community Relations for PNC)

- Kierstan Schwab (Executive Director of the Texas Public Broadcasting Association)
- Jennifer Stockemer (Owner and Director of Ivy Vine Preschool, LLC)
- Meghan Young (Director of Early Childhood Intervention Program for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission)

### **1. Call to Order**

Stephanie Rubin called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

### **2. January 2024 Minutes Approval**

Kierstan Schwab moved to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes and Kim Kofron seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved. A quorum was met during roll call.

### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **4. Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan**

Sarah Abrahams provided updates on Strategy 1.2 from Goal 1: Family Navigation, Access & Engagement and Strategy 3.1 from Goal 3: Local Systems & Partnership of the [Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan](#). Meghan Young shared an update on Strategy 2.4 from Goal 2: Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support.

### **5. Updates from TELC Members**

Hilary Davis (Health and Human Services Commission) gave a brief overview of the HB 12 postpartum extension and implementation.

Manda Hall, MD and Jeremy Triplett (Texas Department of State Health Services) provided information on Community Health Improvement (CHI) Division Maternal and Child Health work.

Rachelle Daniel provided a live demo of the newly updated site [Search Texas Child Care](#).

Amber Scanlan shared that PNC celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [PNC Grow Up Great](#) and shared how PNC are donating \$10 million to outdoor playgrounds and outdoor learning experiences.

Meghan Young highlighted topics that the PEER Network has covered as a follow-up to an earlier question. She also shared about a Request for Information to obtain information and feedback about the ECI program through April 9.

### **6. Upcoming Early Childhood Events**

- Week of the Young Child- April 6-12, 2024

## **7. Adjourn**

Stephanie Rubin adjourned the meeting at 12:59 PM.