

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2022 from 11:00am – 1:00pm

Teleconference via Zoom

Attendance

- Katherine Abba, Ph.D. (Faculty, Child Development Program for Houston Community College)
- Weldon Beard (Director of Head Start and Early Head Start for the Greater East Texas Community Action Program)
- April Crawford, Ph.D. (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 (Melissa Hoisington (Franchise owner with Primrose Schools and former President of the Texas Licensed Child Care Association)
- Kim Kofron (Director of Early Childhood Education for Children at Risk)
- Jerletha McDonald (Licensed home child care center provider and the owner and director of Kiddie Corner Learning Center)
- Reagan Miller (Director of the Child Care and Early Learning Division at the Texas Workforce Commission)
- Stephanie Rubin (CEO of Texans Care for Children)
- Kierstan Schwab (Executive Director of the Texas Public Broadcasting Association)
- Audrey Young (Maternal and Child Health Unit Director and the Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs Director in the Maternal and Child Unit at the Texas Department of State Health Services)

1. Call to Order

Reagan Miller called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. April 2022 Minutes Approval

Katherine Abba moved to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes and Weldon Beard seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken and minutes were approved. A quorum was met during roll call.

3. Public Comment

Ken Barth suggested that Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) members develop eight to ten additional child care metrics to measure progress and drive success at the state and local workforce development board levels.

Kate Hoffman of Early Matters spoke in support of the Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group's exploration of an early childhood integrated data system for the state and recommended the TELC conduct a data inventory of current agency data, institute an opt-in common application across child care, prekindergarten and Head Start, and advance efforts to assign a unique identifier to children per HB 680 (86th Regular Legislative Session).

Tim Kaminski spoke in favor of additional mental health support for children ages birth to five and for the early childhood workforce. He encouraged members of the TELC to ensure young children's needs be a part of the discussion for any future state or federal mental health funding plans.

4. Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group

Chelsea Moore shared a summary of the Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group's progress, including draft policy questions and stakeholder engagement plan. The Work Group's meeting details are regularly updated on the [Texas Early Learning Council website](#).

5. Federal Stimulus Funding Update

Catherine Arwood provided an update on the Child Care Development Block Grant federal stimulus funds being distributed by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC):

- The [eighth tranche of new initiatives](#), including funding for a prekindergarten partnership hub;
- A modification to the [third tranche of new initiatives](#), to allow child care providers who were undergoing a change in ownership to apply for 2022 Child Care Relief Funding;
- The [Child Care Industry Expansion](#) (previously approved in the fifth tranche of new initiatives), with applications for funding going live in July 2022; and
- The status of [Child Care Relief Funds \(CCRF\)](#):
 - Application closed June 1 for second and final round of CCRF funding
 - Funds will be disbursed to child care providers in quarterly payments
 - 13,425 providers invited to apply; 10,801 applications received; 10,577 applications approved and processed
 - Average award amount is \$277,265
 - TWC has awarded \$2.93B to date

6. Updates from TELC Members

Rachel Robinson shared information about Texas Education Agency's [Books Beginning at Birth](#) initiative.

Dr. Alferma Giles and Weldon Beard discussed expanded Head Start eligibility requirements. Young children in families that are SNAP recipients are automatically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start birth to five early care and education services.

Bethany Edwards shared results of a study to understand barriers to providing high quality child care in Tarrant County.

Kim Kofron shared the updated Children At Risk [child care desert map](#) and a dashboard of [Texas child care closures](#).

7. Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Alferma Giles shared about the [Region VI Head Start Conference](#), September 27-30.

Kim Kofron shared about Children At Risk's [Full STEAM Ahead](#), [Education in Transition](#), and [Hats off to Children](#) events.

8. Adjourn

Reagan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:47 PM.