

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2023 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- June Yeatman (Lead teacher at the Austin Community College Children's Lab School)

1. Call to Order

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

2. June 2023 Minutes Approval

Amber Scanlan moved to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes and Weldon Beard seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, and minutes were not approved. A quorum was met during roll call, but due to abstaining votes, the vote to approve the minutes did not carry. June 2023 minutes approval will be addressed in a subsequent council meeting.

3. Public Comment

Kara Waddell, Child Care Associates, commented on data needs at the local and state levels. She suggested a critical first step is to accurately project the early childhood care and education workforce needs and proposed empowering local workforce development boards to gather that data.

4. Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five

Dr. Dorothy Mandell (University of Texas) provided a presentation on the initial findings from the early childhood coalitions. These findings will inform the updated strategic plan.

5. Updates from TELC Members

Reagan Miller (Texas Workforce Commission) shared more information about the upcoming two in-person strategic planning sessions for the council.

Meghan Young (Health and Human Services Commission, Early Childhood Intervention) shared information about ECI's personnel retention grant for positions with the highest turnover.

Jerletha McDonald shared that she participated in the Office of Child Care Central Region CCDF State Administrators Meeting and highlighted the closing keynote. She also attended the National Quality Assurance of Early Childhood Education Mini-Conference where she and local early childhood educators shared some of the great things happening in Tarrant County. Jerletha also shared that the 2025 National Family Child Care Conference will be in Dallas.

Stephanie Rubin shared concerns with Medicaid removals and determining eligibility of those removed. Since April, about 500,000 children have been rolled off Medicaid, but not deemed ineligible. More information is available here: [New Data Show Serious Problems with TX Medicaid Removals](#).

6. Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- [Region 6 Head Start Conference](#), July 17-21 (New Orleans, LA)
- Dallas County, Tarrant County, and Central Texas Workforce Boards conference for early childhood educators, third week of August
- [National Shared Services Conference](#), October 2-4 (Phoenix, AZ)
- [Help Me Grow National Forum](#), October 11-13 (Ft. Worth) and October 17 (virtual)
- [Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference](#), November 2-4 (Round Rock)
- [Partners in Prevention Conference](#), November 14-16 (Austin)
- [Texas System of Care trainings and workshops](#), Ongoing (Virtual)

7. Adjourn

Reagan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:45 PM.