Public Meeting

October 18, 2024

Welcome!

Thank you for joining this meeting. We will begin shortly.

Members of the public are still able request to provide oral public comment today by emailing their request to megan.schneider@tea.texas.gov. Please include your name (as it appears in Zoom), email, organization you are representing, and agenda topic being addressed.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. August 2024 Minutes Approval
3. Public Comment
4. Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan
5. Updates from TELC Members
6. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
7. 2025 Meeting Dates
8. Adjourn

Public Comment

Earlylearningtexas.org has a section called Meetings. This houses all the meeting information for past and upcoming meetings as well as the agenda once it's released. Public agendas are posted a minimum of one week prior to the meeting date, along with instructions for submitting public comment.

- Please provide your name, organization, and the agenda topic you are commenting on for the record.

- Each speaker will be allotted three minutes to provide your public comment. When you hear a chime sound at the two-minute mark, this indicates that you will have one minute remaining to wrap up comments.

- Council members may ask questions after each speaker concludes.

Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan

2024 – 2026

2024-2026 Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan Goals

Family Access, Navigation & Engagement	**Goal 1**	Families can easily meet their basic needs and access the early learning services, programs, and resources they need, and are meaningfully engaged to provide feedback on services.
Workforce Recruitment, Retention & Support	**Goal 2**	The early learning workforce is well-paid, trained and supported; can reach and obtain the professional development resources they need throughout their careers; and is large enough to meet Texans' needs.
Local Systems & Partnership Building	**Goal 3**	Local early learning systems are well-coordinated, appropriately resourced, and successfully support the children and families in their communities.
Integrated Data & System	**Goal 4**	State early learning system entities are collaborating to make family- and data-informed decisions to improve services, programs and resources for children and their families.

Local Systems & Partnership Strategies

Strategy 3.1: Provide educational and informational support to local partnerships to help communities make informed decisions.

Local Systems & Partnership Strategies

Action 3.1.1: HHSC will continue offering sub-grants to existing Family Support Services (FSS) programs to help local communities focus on community needs. Grants can also be used to hire a full-time staff member for coalition work.

- PDG supports FSS initiatives to establish or enhance centralized access and resource navigation in local communities. Centralized access connects families and professionals to a network of community resources that support young children and their families in their local community.

- Centralized intake and referral systems launched or expanded in seven communities:

  - Brazos, Burleson, Grimes
  - Dallas, Rockwall, Kaufman
  - Ector, Midland
  - Tarrant, Wise
  - El Paso
  - Galveston
  - Harris

- Centralized access and resource navigation also supported through new Help Me Grow communities:

  - Hays, Caldwell
  - Montgomery
  - Colorado, Fayette
  - Nueces, San Patricio

Local Systems & Partnership Strategies

Action 3.1.1: HHSC will continue offering sub-grants to existing Family Support Services (FSS) programs to help local communities focus on community needs. Grants can also be used to hire a full-time staff member for coalition work.

- This quarter, awardees addressed more than 950 calls through their centralized access services and connected families to relevant providers and resources. More than 200 families were connected to early childhood programs specifically through these centralized access services.

Local Systems & Partnership Strategies

Action 3.1.2: TWC and TEA will continue to support statewide staff working towards prekindergarten and child care partnerships.

- Prekindergarten Partnership Expansion
- Classroom Awards
- Support & Resources
- House Bill 1615

Data & System Coordination Strategies

Strategy 4.1: Develop an ECIDS to strengthen data sharing across agencies and better inform state-level policy and program improvement.

Strategy 4.2: Support data utilization by communities and stakeholders using data platforms to inform quality improvement actions and local systems planning.

Strategy 4.3: Increase alignment and coordination across agencies to improve family access, navigation, and engagement.

Data & System Coordination Strategies

Action 4.1.1: ECIW will develop a cross-agency data governance plan, including crafting an objective, framework, roles, and responsibilities, and documenting relevant privacy laws and regulations.

Action 4.1.2: ECIW will review existing statutory and legal requirements and develop required data sharing agreements for the priority business case(s) and a process for updating interagency agreements.

Proposed "Strategic Plan Workgroup"

- Suggested charge of work group is to advance all Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan action items assigned to the Texas Early Learning Council, including:
  - Prioritize the actions, starting with Workforce related actions (Goal 2)
  - Determine next steps on priority actions and assign owners
  - Provide updates on progress at quarterly TELC meetings
- Responsibilities
  - Meet 1 to 2 times per month virtually through 2024 and 2025
  - Advance assigned work in between meetings
- Membership
  - TELC members or their designated representatives
  - Revisit membership at end of 2025
  - Email catherine.davis@twc.texas.gov by 11/1 if you are interested in joining or would like to nominate someone to join

Updates from TELC Members

THE WHOLE CHILD

Social Studies & World Cultures

Science, Technology & Engineering

Literacy

Emotions, Self-Awareness & Relationships

Through THE Woods

MEGA WOW!

The Arts

Math
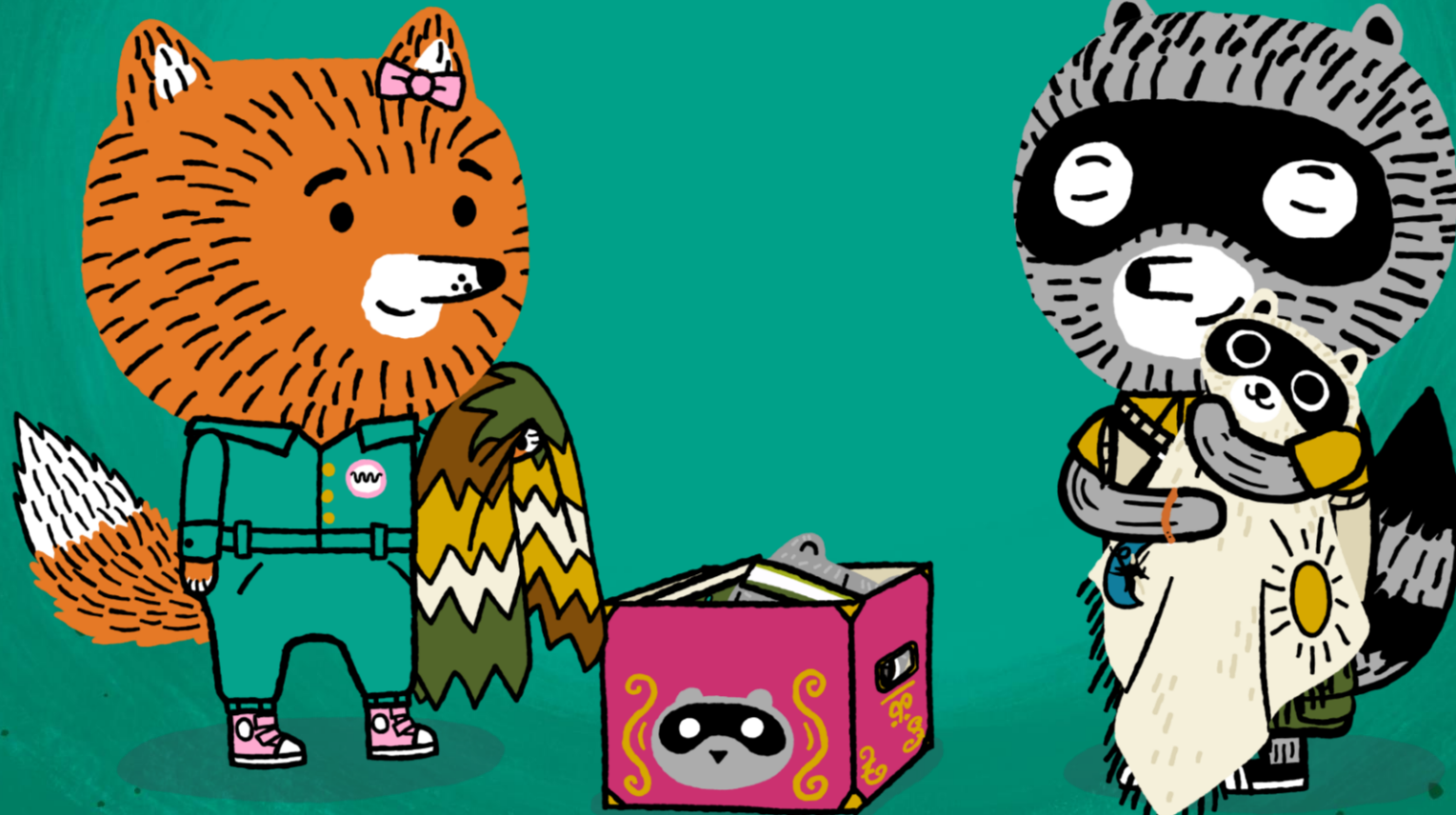
CARL
THE COLLECTOR

CORE THEMES

- Inclusivity

- Empathy & Compassion

- Honoring what makes each of us unique

- Everyone has value and something to contribute

REPRESENTING AUTISM IN CARL THE COLLECTOR

VOICE TALENT

STIMMING
- **CARL – Wiggles his fingers, jumps on his trampoline, paces, flaps his arms**
- **LOTTA – Twirls or strokes her tail**

EYE CONTACT

PHYSICAL TOUCH

LOTTA'S SYNESTHESIA

AUDIENCE RESEARCH

"I have lots of [collections]...Carl is basically me. Instead of having all of my collections in boxes on a shelf, I have it in a safe."
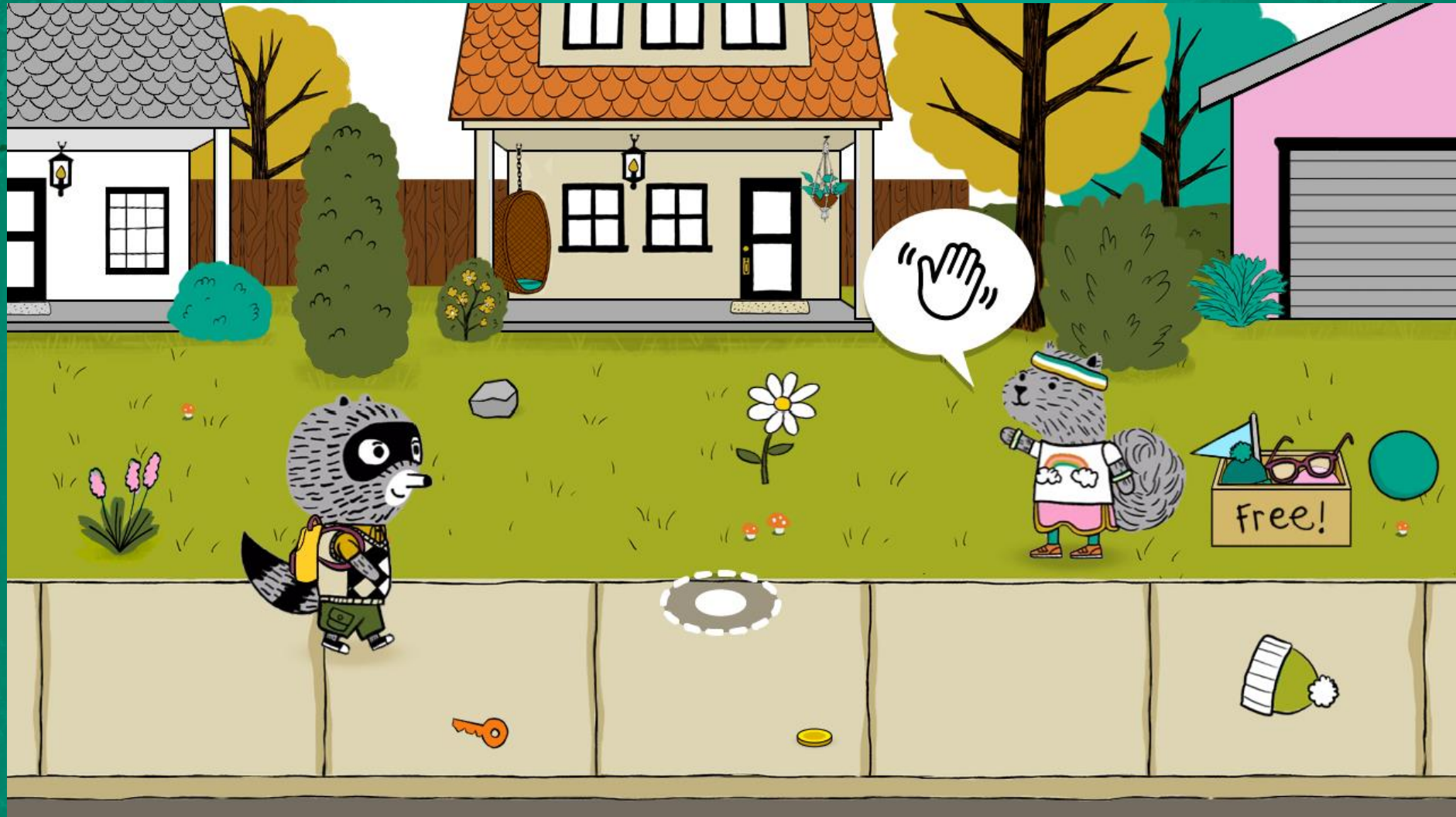*- Ryan, 7-year-old boy who identifies as Autistic*

"I laughed because [Ryan] even has a feather collection. Whoever did the research did a good job. Thank you for normalizing this. It's a great step in the right direction."
- Ryan's Mom

GAMES

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PBS KIDS…

Prepares Children for School

Boosts Early Literacy Skills

Improves Math Knowledge & Skills

Strengthens Parent Support

Increases Teacher Knowledge of
Students' Math Learning & Development

Leads to Learning Gains Comparable
to High-Quality Pre-K

PBS KIDS

HHSC Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Updates

ECI Request for Applications

- The Request for Applications (RFA) is tentatively scheduled for publication in December 2024 on https://resources.hhs.texas.gov/rfa

- RFA HHS0014626

- Any updates to this timeline will be shared on the Procurement Forecast at https://www.hhs.texas.gov/business/contracting-hhs/procurement-opportunities

HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request for ECI

All Funds	FY 2026	FY 2027	Biennium
Base request	$192,704,089	$199,162,647	**$391,866,736**
Exceptional item	$7,640,592	$10,428,036	**$18,068,628**
Total	**$200,344,681**	**$209,590,683**	**$409,935,364**

Funding/child/month	FY 2026	FY 2027
Base request	$424.47	$424.47
Total request (base + exceptional item)	$441.30	$446.69

TWC Updates

Child Care Services (CCS) Update

Texas' CCDF amount (excludes one-time stimulus funding):

Fiscal Year	Amount
Fiscal Year 14:	$474.8 million
Fiscal Year 15:	$477.9 million
Fiscal Year 16:	$514.1 million
Fiscal Year 17:	$520.4 million
Fiscal Year 18:	$752.2 million
Fiscal Year 19:	$767.1 million
Fiscal Year 20:	$866.1 million
Fiscal Year 21:	$866.5 million
Fiscal Year 22:	$964.2 million
Fiscal Year 23:	$1.14 billion
Fiscal Year 24:	$1.22 billion

Child Care Services (CCS) Update

- Increases in CCS Payment Rates
  - FFY20: base rates at the 30th percentile
  - FFY23: base rates at the 75th percentile
  - FFY24&
    FFY25: base rates at least at the 75th percentile
            base rates may be increased based on Cost of Quality

- Increases in CCS Local Funds for Quality Improvement
  - FFY22, and prior years: 2%
  - FFY23: 4%
  - FFY24: 4%
  - FFY25: 6%

TWC Updates

Child Care Services (CCS) Update

- Increases in Texas Rising Star Mentors/Assessor Funding
  - FFY19 - $9.6 million
  - FFY20 - $10.3 million
  - FFY21 - $10.5 million
  - FFY22 - $17 million
  - FFY23 - $31.9 million
  - FFY24 - $37 million
  - FFY25 - $39 million

TWC Updates

Child Care Services (CCS) Update

- CCS Average Number of Children Served Per Day
  - FFY17: 98,994
  - FFY18: 107,139
  - FFY19: 130,224
  - FFY20: 127,590
  - FFY21: 113,237
  - FFY22: 123,590
  - FFY23: 142,382
  - FFY24, as of August 2024: 149,859

TWC Updates

Child Care Services (CCS) Update

- CCS Waiting Lists
  - FFY21 – 22,223
  - FFY22 – 47,963
  - FFY23 – 71,718
  - FFY24 – 80,107

- New Statewide Parent Application – TX3C launches 12/8/24

Updates from TELC Members

Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Announcements from Texas Head Start Collaboration Office

Region VI Head Start Association Conference

October 22nd-25th, Albuquerque, NM.

Office of Head Start Regional Roadshow Schedule:

Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) Implementation

October 29th-30th, Dallas, TX.

Texas Head Start Association Fall Conference

November 12th-14th, Dallas, TX.

2025 Proposed Meeting Dates

2025 Meeting Dates

January 10, 11am to 1pm

April 11, 11am to 1pm

August 8, 11am to 1pm

October 24, 11am to 1pm

Adjourn

Thank you for your time! The meeting slides and recording will be posted at:

www.earlylearningtexas.org/

Next meeting:

January 10, 2025 from 11am to 1pm