

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2020 11:00am-1:00pm

Teleconference via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Stephanie Rubin called the meeting to order. Quorum present. All members present with the exception of Sam Eng.

2. Welcome Remarks

3. May 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

Cathy McHorse (United Way of Austin) provided public comments regarding the impact of COVID-19 on early childhood programs in Austin/Travis county. Melanie Rubin (Dallas) provided public comments regarding COVID-19, in support of actions taken by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), recommending the distribution of remaining CCDBG CARES Act funds, and recommending a focus on coordinated consumer education messaging. Gwendolyn Sneed (Goodstreet Learning Center, Dallas) provided public comments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and in support of TWC's actions to support child care, and recommending consistent and stable support for early childhood programs..

5. TELC Member COVID Update

The following members of the Council provided updates on the impact of COVID19 on early childhood programs and services:

- Jerletha McDonald (Arlington DFW Child Care Professionals)
- Teresa Robledo (San Antonio College Early Childhood Center, Alamo Colleges)
- Weldon Beard (Head Start/Early Head Start, Greater East Texas Community Action Program)
- Travis Armstrong, Ed.D. (Early Learning Department, Wichita Falls ISD)
- Audrey Young (Maternal and Child Health, Department of State Health Services)

6. Statewide Early Learning Strategic Plan

The Council discussed future efforts to support the Statewide Early Learning Strategic Plan, including the potential development of workgroups, and the invitation of guest speakers to address issues at future meetings. Council members also expressed an interest in ensuring equity across all issues, strategies and goals.

7. State Child Care Website

Lauren Zbyszinski provided an update on the work that the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Education Agency are considering to build onto the existing Texas Child Care website (formerly the Frontline Child Care website) to include additional early childhood programs/resources.

8. Adjourn