

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

January 19, 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Beatrice Mata (Director of Early Childhood Education for the Ector County Independent School District)
- Reagan Miller (Director of the Child Care and Early Learning Division for 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)
- Jennifer Stockemer (Owner and Director of Ivy Vine Preschool, LLC)
- June Yeatman (Lead teacher at the Austin Community College Children's Lab School)

- Meghan Young (Director of Early Childhood Intervention Program for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission)

1. Call to Order

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

2. January 2024 Minutes Approval

Katherine Abba moved to approve the October 2023 meeting minutes and Terri Breeden 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. Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five

Reagan Miller thanked Council members for their participation in updating the [Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan](#) and Megan Schneider gave an overview of the plan.

5. 2024 Meeting Dates

The quarterly TELC meeting schedule for 2024 was proposed. Meeting dates are April 5, August 2, and October 18.

6. Updates from TELC Members

Cathi Arwood (Texas Workforce Commission) shared details about the 2025-2027 Child Care Development Fund State Plan and opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback, including input meetings and surveys.

Meghan Young shared about upcoming professional development opportunities for ECI direct service personnel including the Series for Meaningful Interagency Learning and Education (SMILE) and Genetics webinar series. ECI is continuing their PEER network, with over 400 members. ECI is preparing for the final of four Creating Connections conferences focused on inclusive classrooms for early childhood care and education professionals.

Sarah Abrahams gave an update on the transition of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services to Health and Human Services Commission in September and renaming the division Family Support Services (FSS). There is a lot of work going into making the transition a smooth and timely one. PEI expansion funding, received in last legislative session, is being used to expand existing and established programming and to expand geographic reach across the state. To date, more than \$12 million has been granted to existing communities for new services or targeting new populations.

Stephanie Rubin and Alec Mendoza (Texans Care for Children) shared results of the latest ECI Provider surveys and mentioned a public report coming soon.

7. Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- Texas Early Childhood Education Summit, May 16 (Virtual)

8. Adjourn

Reagan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.