

Public Meeting

September 17, 2021



T E X A S
EARLY LEARNING
C O U N C I L

Welcome!

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

All attendees are muted upon entry.

If you are having any connectivity issues, you can call into the meeting instead.

Number: 346-248-7799

Access Code: 83446425293#

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. July 2021 Minutes Approval
3. Public Comment
4. Strategic Plan
5. Updates from TELC Members
6. Federal Stimulus Funding Update
7. 2022 Meeting Schedule
8. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
9. Adjourn

Strategic Plan: Goal 6

All TELC members



What progress has your organization / constituency made (or is planning to make) against [Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan](#) Goal 6: *“Texas has strong coordination across its early childhood system and the underlying data system to support a high degree of collaboration”?*



Strategic Plan: Goal 6

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

What is an ECIDS?

- Early childhood services span multiple state agencies and programs, and many states are pursuing Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) to merge data across agencies.
- An ECIDS can help states integrate, layer, or combine data across programs that serve young children to support **cross-program collaboration** and **data-driven decision-making**.

Texas Interagency Collaboration:

The interagency early childhood team, comprised of staff from five agencies, is interested in examining the potential policy questions an ECIDS could assist in addressing. The team includes:

- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Early Childhood Intervention and Child Care Regulation)
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Prevention and Early Intervention/PEI), and
- Texas Department of State Health Services (Maternal and Child Health).

Strategic Plan: Goal 6

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

A Texas ECIDS Roadmap:

- *What?*

The ECIDS Roadmap will include a summary of Texas-specific background information, stakeholder-identified policy questions and data use cases, and a sequence of proposed activities for the near and mid-term.

- *Why?*

An ECIDS roadmap will provide a framework for setting measurable ECIDS progress goals and objectives.

- *How?*

Over the next year, the interagency early childhood team will work across programs and with stakeholders to develop an ECIDS roadmap for Texas.

The federal technical assistance center for PDG B-5 will provide technical assistance and help facilitate stakeholder engagement and roadmap development.

Strategic Plan: Goal 6

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

ECIDS Roadmap Development – Key Considerations

- Start with the questions:
 - What policy questions could an ECIDS help decision-makers address?
- Plan for decision points on:
 - feasibility and scope
 - data governance
 - funding sources and methods
 - technologies and architecture
- Don't reinvent the wheel – build on:
 - existing inter-agency data integration efforts (TXR3, PEIMS unique ID, Early Childhood Systems Integration Group)
 - previous TELC work to catalog early childhood data across programs ([The On-Track System Strategic Plan, TOTS](#))



Updates from TELC Members

Texas PN-3



Vision:

All Texas children are born healthy and have equitable access to health and early learning supports in their homes and their communities.

Early childhood systems are aligned, coordinated, and well-funded to ensure young children and their families are healthy and thriving.

Mission:

The mission of the PN-3 Collaborative is to serve more than 400,000 additional infants and toddlers with health services, early child care and education and prevention and early intervention services by 2026.

The Texas Plan

- Ensure access to prenatal and postpartum health services
- Ensure universal screening and successfully connection to prevention and early intervention services
- Ensure high-quality early childcare and education



Healthy Beginnings – 87th Legislative Session



Successes:

- HB 133 - Allows new mothers to keep Medicaid health coverage for 6 months postpartum instead of just 2 months
- State continued funding for *TexasAIM* initiative that equips TX hospitals to prevent maternal morbidity and mortality
- HB 2658 (includes HB 290) - Reduces inaccurate mid-year eligibility reviews that remove children from Medicaid and gives parents more time to submit paperwork
- While Senate initially approved big reduction (-\$27 million) to ECI, the adopted state budget avoided funding cuts. Your help made a difference!

Healthy Beginnings – 87th Legislative Session

What Comes Next:

- State and federal officials work together to secure federal Medicaid funding for 6-month postpartum coverage
- Medicaid Expansion - Texans want and need it
- More data & education on connections between health coverage, health & other outcomes
- Use of American Rescue Plan Act funds to help boost ECI services

Interim Charges:

- Monitor implementation of 6-month postpartum health coverage and revised mid-year eligibility checks in Children's Medicaid
- Examine state investments in the health and brain development of babies and toddlers, including ECI and other early childhood programs for children in the first three years

Early Childcare/Education – 87th Legislative Session

Successes:

- HB 2607 by Talarico et al./Lucio was passed requiring subsidy providers to participate in the state's previously voluntary quality rating and improvement system, Texas Rising Star with an appropriate phase-in period and increased access to supports and coaching
- HB 1792 by Button et al./Zaffirini streamlines the evaluation of childcare providers participating in the Texas Rising Star system
- HB 619 by Thompson, S. et al./Alvarado requires TWC to collect additional data and develop a strategic plan to support a sustainable childcare workforce
- SB 1555 by Zaffirini/Raney et al. aligns age groupings between the Texas Workforce Commission and Health and Human Services Commission Child Care Regulations which will support higher reimbursement rates for infants and toddlers

Early Childcare/Education – 87th Legislative Session

What Happens Next / Interim Charges:

- Cost of Quality Study
- Monitor implementation of House Bill 2607, including opportunities to expand access to quality child care for infants and toddlers
- Monitor implementation of House Bill 619 and other efforts to improve child care quality, study opportunities to expand professional development and career pathways for early childhood educators, including apprenticeships in early childhood education
- Examine the impact of child care deserts on the Texas economy; Examine impact specifically in rural communities and on critical brain development for infants and toddlers
- Monitor the use of federal COVID relief funding for child care
- Examine child-teacher ratios in child care classrooms as it relates to safety and reported injury data

Supported Families – 87th Legislative Session

Successes:

- Maintenance of funding for prevention programming through Prevention and Early Intervention Division (PEI)
- Groundwork laid for future Health Service Initiatives to support prevention programming demonstrated effective at improving child outcomes
- Protection of funding aimed at keeping families together and preventing removals connected to FFPSA



Supported Families – 87th Legislative Session

What Happens Next:

- Additional federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for prevention programs

Interim Charges:

- Improve the Resource and Referral System for Texas Families
- Establish Diversified Funding to Support Family Connects Program Expansion
- Examine state investments in the health and brain development of babies and toddlers, including Early Childhood Intervention and other early childhood programs for children in the first three years

2022 Texas PN-3 Planning

- Launch of Parent Advisory Council
- Enhancing racial equity practices
- Submission and support of interim charges
- Engagement of business community

Community Innovation Grant

Pritzker Children's Initiative – Tarrant County



Goal 1: Screening, Referral & Linkage to Services

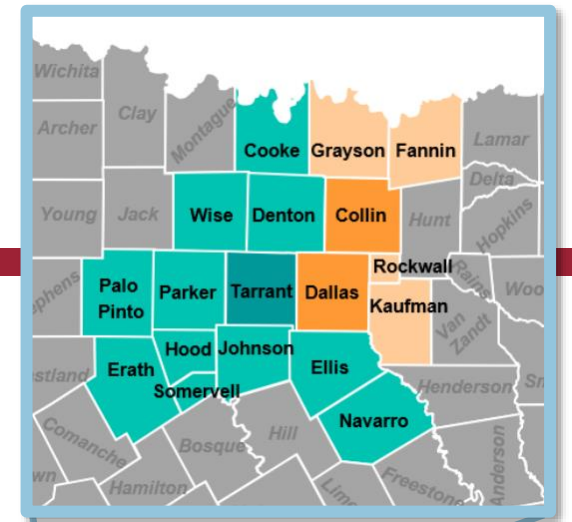
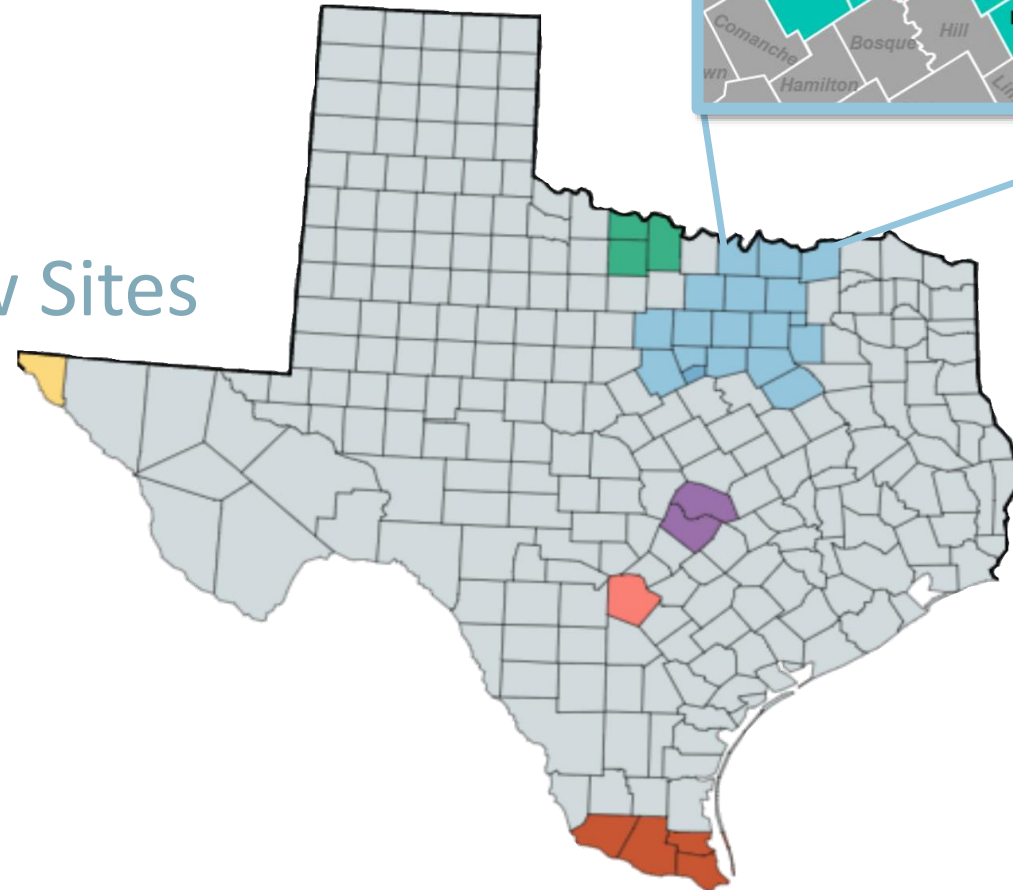
- Centralized Access & Navigation
 - Social Determinants of Health
 - Developmental Screenings
 - 2·1·1, API (Application Programming Interface)
- Family Leadership Council
- Provider Support & Training - Teachable Platform
- Data & Evaluation - Results-Based Accountability / CNM
- Porch Visits





Help Me Grow

- Regional and State Expansion
 - Title V Funding
 - 18 Regional Counties
 - 6 State-wide Help Me Grow Sites



Learn The Signs. Act Early.

- Deputy Ambassadors
- Partner Distribution
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Funding

Learn the Signs.
Act Early.



Free materials for families/providers

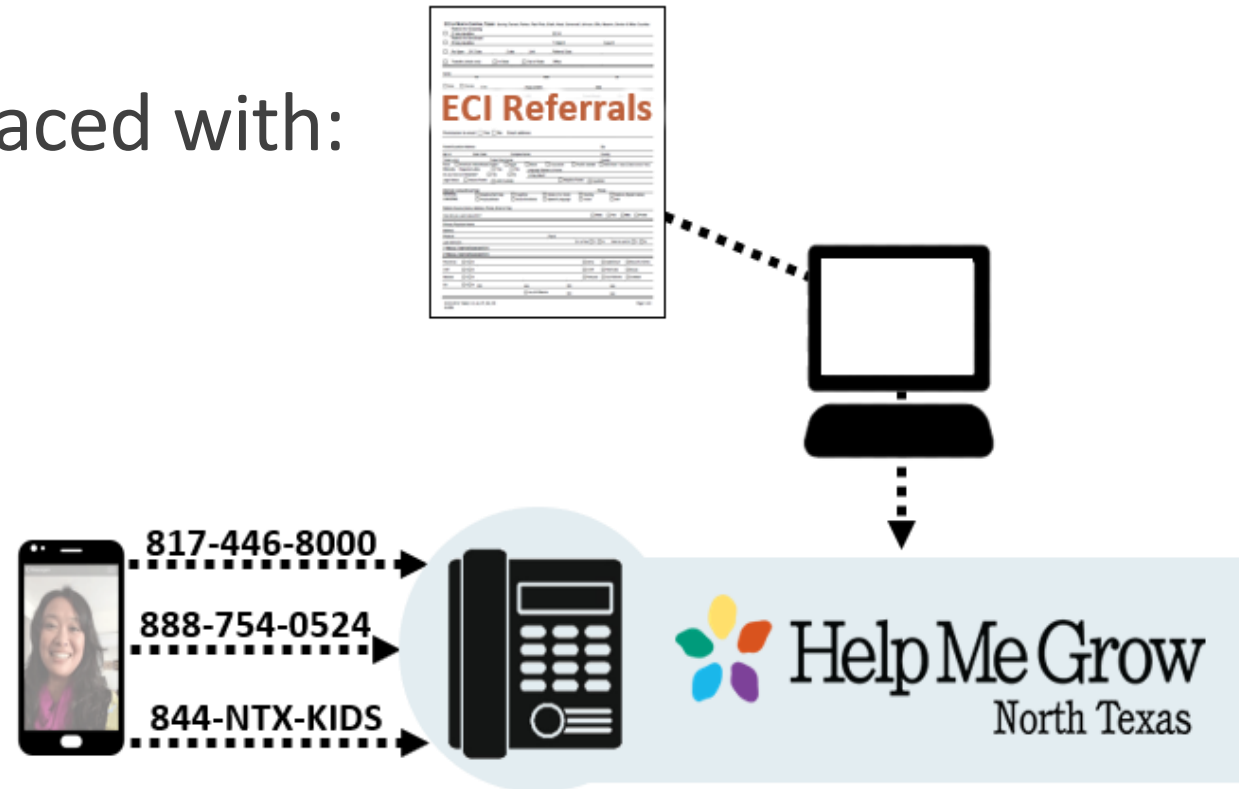


Goal 2: Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

- Early Childhood Workforce
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) / Trauma-Informed Training
- SAMHSA - Center of Excellence
- Work with Part C Technical Assistance
- Greenspace

Goal 3: ECI

- Increased referrals to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) prior to 12 months and improved outcomes
- “Learn The Signs. Act Early.” interlaced with:
 - Tarrant County 17P Initiative
 - Nurturing Family Program
 - OB/GYN - Prenatal Focus
- ECI & Help Me Grow Pilot



Goal 4: HealthySteps

- Support screenings & early identification in pediatric practices:
 - Cook Children's
 - UNT Health Science Center (UNTHSC)
 - JPS Health Network
 - Children's Medical
 - Potential sites - Denton / Austin



PEDIATRIC CARE • SUPPORTING • PARENTING
A Program of ZERO TO THREE

Goal 5: Family Connects

- Support screening & early identification through universal home visits
- Family Connects RNs partnering with:
 - Texas Health Arlington Memorial
 - Medical City Arlington
 - Lake Granbury Medical Center
 - Texas Health Cleburne
 - Wise Health System - Decatur
 - Texas Health Presbyterian - Dallas
 - Coming Soon: Texas Health Harris Hospital - Fort Worth



Goal 6: Child Care

- Increased access to high quality child care:
 - Fiscal mapping
 - Partner with PN-3 on informing policy
 - Expand high quality rated child care programs in Tarrant County
 - Career pathways



Help Me Grow North Texas
2 Year Celebration

September 30 from 12-2pm
Arlington Public Library Downtown
100 S. Center St, Arlington 76011

Come celebrate the two years of accomplishments of Help Me Grown
North Texas.

Event is come and go.

Please RSVP to Faith.Rivera@mhmrtc.org

*thank
you*

Any Questions?



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Early Childhood Intervention Child Find Self-Assessment

**Texas Early Learning Council Meeting
September 17, 2021**

Child Find

Child find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening, and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities who are in need of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI).



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Self-Assessment Tool

- Developed by the Office of Special Education Programs and its technical assistance centers as a voluntary tool to help states identify effective strategies and promote efficiency in their Part C child find systems.
- Texas chose to focus on:
 - Children referred but found ineligible for early intervention services;
 - Children referred within six months of their third birthday; and,
 - Identification of infants and toddlers who are underserved by Part C.



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Process

Surveys

- ECI contractors
 - 69 responses representing at least 23 of the 41 contractors.
- Referral sources
 - More than 1,100 responses representing more than 42 different organizations, agencies, or groups.

Focus Groups

- Collaborated with the BUILD Initiative.
- Conducted in Starr, Potter, Montgomery, Presidio, and Dallas counties.



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Opportunities Identified

- Increasing information for parents and training opportunities for referral sources.
- Providing more information on typical child development and community resources to families.
- Offering additional opportunities for developmental screeners to identify children who may be eligible for ECI.



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Next Steps

- Develop a workgroup comprised of ECI contractors, stakeholders, interagency partners, and families to review a summary of the findings from the surveys and focus groups.
- Develop an improvement plan with actions that will strengthen our child find efforts and increase equity across the state.
- Implement and monitor progress of the improvement plan.



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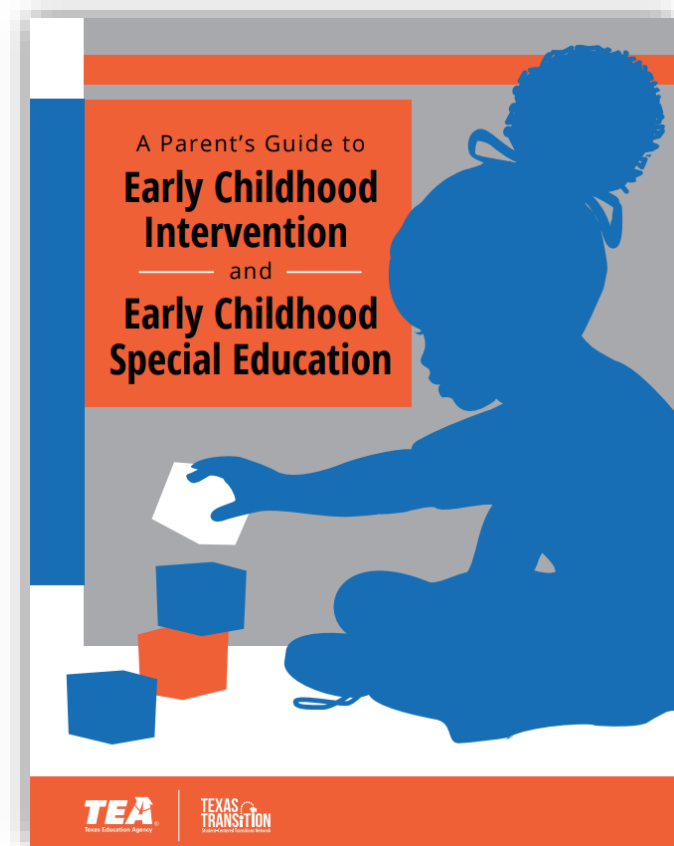
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Thank you

Updates – Parent Guide

Terrie Breeden, Texas Education Agency

[A Parent's Guide to Early Childhood Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education](#) is available on the Texas Transition website (www.texastransition.org).



Updates – OOC Panel

Jerletha McDonald

Office of Child Care's National Family Child Care Provider Panel Co-Chairs



Jessica Sager
Co Founder – CEO
All Our Kin



Jerletha McDonald,
Founder - CEO
Arlington DFW Childcare



Lanette Dumas
CEO
National Association For Family Childcare



Updates – OOC Panel

Jerletha McDonald

I am the Co-Chair and member of the Office of Child Care's National Family Child Care Provider Panel.

As a Panel member, I have the opportunity to lift the voice of family child care educators and inform others about the issues and challenges that family child care providers face on a daily basis.

My peers on the Panel and I also have the opportunity to influence a set of guiding principles for developing early care and education systems and quality improvement approaches that address the unique needs of family child care providers.

The Panel meets every other month and is hosted by the [National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance](#) in partnership with [All Our Kin.](#)"

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2022 Meeting Schedule

Suggested Quarterly Meeting Dates:

January 21, 2022

April 1, 2022

July 15, 2022

October 21, 2022



Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Events

Child Care Regulation: [Who is Keeping Our Children Safe? Protecting Children in Child Care Settings](#), offered monthly from July through December 2021

CLI Engage: Data Squad's [Data Conference](#), September 21-23, 2021

Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention: [Partners in Prevention Conference](#), "Forging Forward Together: Nurturing Communities and Families", on November 2-4, 2021

Adjourn



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Next meeting:

November 12, 2021

11am – 1pm