

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2023 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)
- Weldon Beard (President of the Texas Head Start Association)
- April Crawford (Co-Director of 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)
- Beatris 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 11:01 AM.

2. Welcome New Members

Reagan Miller introduced and welcomed new members: Beatris Mata, Director of Early Childhood Education for the Ector County Independent School District; Jennifer Stockemer, Owner and Director of Ivy Vine Preschool, LLC; Meghan Young, Director of Early Childhood Intervention for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Reagan Miller also noted that Jerletha McDonald, Founder and President of the Arlington DFW Child Care Providers Association, vacated her role on the council and thanked Jerletha for her years of service.

September 2023 Minutes Approval

Marisela Nava moved to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes and Katherine Abba 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 gave an update on the Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan next steps and council members reflected on the recent strategic planning sessions.

5. Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group

Sarah Abrahams shared about two documents related to early childhood data: the [Early Childhood Integrated Data System \(ECIDS\) Roadmap](#) and the Early Childhood Data Landscape and Inventory. Both documents are available on the TELC website.

6. Updates from TELC Members

Allison Wilson (Texas Workforce Commission) shared about the recently released guidance related to 2024 child care reimbursement rates, and requirements for Local Workforce Development Boards to have a board member representing child care and to develop a local child care committee. She also shared the [Texas Provider Cost of Quality Calculator](#) tool, available on TWC's website.

Meghan Young announced dates for one-day regional conferences focused on connecting Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and early childhood care and education professionals and building classrooms inclusive of children of all abilities. ECI has also been awarded a continuation of a personnel retention grant. ECI recently announced changes in ECI providers and service areas in far Northeast Texas. Neighboring ECI providers will expand their service areas to take on the counties affected by the termination of the current provider contract.

Lee Roberts (Child Care Regulation) gave an update on new and revised child care regulation rules. The rules concern requirements for relative-only listed family homes, voluntary actions, inspections and investigations, confidentiality, technical assistance, and waivers and variances.

Stephanie Rubin highlighted the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center Report that includes information for Texas. Texans Care for Kids staff created a [child care summary](#) that includes

information on Proposition 2 in the upcoming election. They also plan to post a blog or summary about maternal health postpartum coverage extension soon.

Kierstan Schwab shared about Texas Public Broadcasting's Corporation for Public Broadcasting grant to implement the Ready to Learn Initiative. They have partnered with TWC to pilot the use of Ready to Learn resources in two communities.

7. Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- Texas Association for the Education for Young Children Annual Conference, November 2-4 (Round Rock)
- Partners in Prevention Conference, November 14-16 (Austin)

7. Adjourn

Reagan Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:59 PM.