

## ***Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes***

October 21, 2022 from 11:00am – 1:00pm

Teleconference via Zoom

### **Attendance**

- Katherine Abba, Ph.D. (Faculty, Child Development Program for Houston Community College)
- Weldon Beard (Director of Head Start and Early Head Start for the Greater East Texas Community Action Program)
- Terrie Breeden (Section 619 Lead Coordinator for the Texas Education Agency)
- April Crawford, Ph.D. (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)
- Jerletha McDonald (Licensed home child care center provider and the owner and director of Kiddie Corner Learning Center)
- Reagan Miller (Director of the Child Care and Early Learning Division at the Texas Workforce Commission)
- 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)
- June Yeatman (Lead teacher at the Austin Community College Children's Lab School)
- Audrey Young (Maternal and Child Health Unit Director and the Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs Director in the Maternal and Child Unit at the Texas Department of State Health Services)

### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **2. July 2022 Minutes Approval**

Alferma Giles moved to approve the July 2022 meeting minutes and Katherine Abba seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken and minutes were approved. A quorum was met during roll call.

### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment was shared during the meeting.

#### **4. Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group**

Allison Moore shared a summary of the Early Childhood Data Roadmap Work Group's progress, including stakeholder engagement efforts, planned roadmap content, and a data landscape being conducted by Third Sector Intelligence. The Work Group's meeting details are regularly updated on the [Texas Early Learning Council website](#).

#### **5. Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five**

Catherine Arwood and Megan Schneider provided an overview of the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five opportunity, results from recent listening sessions, and an overview of the planned Texas application.

#### **6. Federal Stimulus Funding Update**

Allison Wilson provided an update on the Child Care Development Block Grant federal stimulus funds being distributed by Texas Workforce Commission (TWC):

- The [ninth tranche of new initiatives](#), including funding for:
  - Prospective Payments for Child Care Services Providers (est. \$50M)
  - Child Care Industry Expansion, Capacity-Building Awards Increase (\$75M)
  - Engage Platform and Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS) Enhancements (\$2.5M)
  - Child Care Relief Fund Modification to update Deserts and Texas Rising Star Status
  - Additional Child Care Relief Fund Payment for Child Care Services Providers (\$500M)

She also provided an update on changes to TWC's child care federal stimulus website (<https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/child-care-stimulus-resources>), which includes information on the funding allocated to Texas, projects approved, and available balances that remain for future investments.

In response to a question about initiatives studying wages and wage increases for the child care workforce, Reagan Miller shared that Child Care Relief Funds can be used for retention bonuses and wage supplements. TWC has 8 webinars on its website with more information about hiring and retention (<https://www.childcare.texas.gov/attracting-and-retaining-staff?hsLang=en>).

#### **7. Legislative Update**

State agency representatives provided updates on:

- The DFPS exceptional item request to expand prevention and community well-being services.
- The TWC exceptional item request for child care funding and capital budget request for a child care web-based consumer portal.

#### **8. Updates from TELC Members**

Audrey Young shared information about the expansion of Help Me Grow to Bastrop County Cares and Smith County Champions for Children. To find out how to connect to a local Help Me Grow community, email [hmgutexas@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:hmgutexas@dshs.texas.gov).

Stephanie Rubin shared that the Texans Care for Children School Readiness Dashboard will launch soon.

#### **9. Upcoming Early Childhood Events**

Kim Kofron shared about Children At Risk's Texas Tour (<https://childrenatrisk.org/fall22txtours/>) and Early Childhood Education Rally Day on March 23, 2023 at 10am.

#### **10. 2023 Meeting Dates**

Proposed meeting dates for 2023 are January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20 from 11am to 1pm.

#### **11. Adjourn**

Reagan Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:09 PM.