

Texas Early Learning Council Meeting Minutes

September 11, 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)
- 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)
- Melissa Hoisington (Franchise owner with Primrose Schools and former President of the Texas Licensed Child Care Association)
- 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)
- Tori Lee (Director of Early Childhood for Texas Education Agency)
- Jerletha McDonald (Licensed home child care center provider and the owner and director of Kiddie Corner Learning Center)
- Marisela Nava (Director of Texas Southmost College Early Childhood Center)
- Stephanie Rubin (CEO of Texans Care for Children)
- Kierstan Schwab (Executive Director of the Texas Public Broadcasting Association)
- June Yeatman (Lead teacher at the Austin Community College Children's Lab School)

1. Call to Order

Megan Schneider called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. June and July 2023 Minutes Approval

Katherine Abba moved to approve the June and July 2023 meeting minutes and Kim Kofron 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 Needs Assessment Findings Presentation 3: Families and Data Systems

Dr. Dorothy Mandell (University of Texas) provided a presentation on the initial findings from the statewide needs assessment for families and data systems. These findings will inform the updated strategic plan.

5. Updates from TELC Members

Megan Schneider (Texas Education Agency) shared a reminder about the upcoming in-person strategic planning sessions for the council on September 15 and October 5-6.

Sarah Abrahams shared information about Prevention and Early Intervention's upcoming move to the Health and Human Services Commission (to take effect September 1, 2024) and recent federal and state expansion funding for evidence-based home visiting programs.

Stephanie Rubin shared updates regarding the Texans Care for Children's School Readiness Dashboard, the end of continuous Medicaid coverage, and the Texas State House of Representatives' Early Childhood Caucus.

6. Upcoming Early Childhood Events

- [National Shared Services Conference](#), October 2-4 (Phoenix, AZ)
- [Help Me Grow National Forum](#), October 11-13 (Ft. Worth) and October 17 (virtual)
- [Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference](#), November 2-4 (Round Rock)
- [Partners in Prevention Conference](#), November 14-16 (Austin)
- [ECE Fall Texas Tour](#) (various dates and locations)

7. Adjourn

Megan Schneider adjourned the meeting at 12:57 PM.