

Early Childhood Advisory Council Agenda Thursday, December 11, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Summary

Attendees: Carrie Pierce (Chair), Cynthia Pearson (Virtual), Jennifer Gonzalez (Virtual), Amy Cohen (Virtual)

Guests: Ravi Savari (WFSWCT C2)

Board Staff: Lisa Colyer, Mindy Ross, Amelia Reeves, Jessica Hayhurst

I. Call to order – Carrie Pierce, Chair

Meeting called to order by Chair Pierce at 12:02 p.m. Notes from the previous Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

II. Welcome and Introduction

Amelia Reeves began with introductions of those present for the meeting.

a) Review: Purpose and Council Roles and Responsibilities.

An overview of the council's purpose and member roles was provided and read aloud by Amelia Reeves. This included Context around the council's rules, its original intent, and the reasons for its formation in January 2024. A handout outlining this information was distributed to participants.

The following items were reviewed and discussed pertaining to the "Council Charter":

- Purpose

- Add: the advisory council is not part of the Board's formal governance structure.

- Board Authority and Responsibilities

- Add language to clarify that any committee recommendations will be considered based on the following factor:
 - Fund source and/or program allowability
 - Available funding
 - Staffing resources
 - Potential impact on desired outcomes

*A concern was raised about the current level of field representation on the board. With only three to four members having direct childcare experience, there may be a gap in practical, on-the-ground perspectives. This concern will be considered as part of the proposed charter and purpose of revisions.

- Membership Composition

- Remove “Board Staff; Board staff will always be represented in their support role”.
- Remove “minimum/maximum” (not required by TWC)
- Remove “limits on number for each representing entity to allow equity, flexibility, and cross-sector representation.”

- Member Appointment and Terms

- Add language about standing appointments for childcare stakeholder such as United Way, ECI, Region 14 ESC, and Education/Training
- Add language to allow Board Chair to appoint members to fill vacancies as needed.
- Add to last bullet point: eligibility to serve is tied to agency affiliation.

*Discussion focused on adding language to the standing meeting expectations to ensure that participating entities designate a representative who is able to consistently attend meetings. The need for clear expectations around attendance and representation was identified.

Additionally, the group discussed whether term limits or rotation of language should be included: specifically, whether representatives should be replaced or positions reopened after a two-year period. It was noted that the current charter does not include language addressing term length, rotation, or replacement.

- Attendance and Meetings

- Remove first bullet
 - “Members must attend no less than 50% of the regular meetings during the year. If a member is absent for more than 50% of the meetings, they may be removed from the Council. The Board Executive Committee has the discretion to consider individual circumstance and retain a member on the Council.”
- Add: “Members of the Child Care Advisory Council may be removed at any time (i) by majority vote of the Board or (ii) by the Chairperson of the Board.
- Second bullet, remove reference to “in-person and remote attendance”
 - “The Council shall meet no less than quarterly and both in-person and remote attendance options will be provided to facilitate participation.”

- Remove third bullet (all minutes are posted and shared)

*The group discussed whether removal language should be revised or removed, emphasizing that member conduct and participation should be guided by character, accountability, and clear communication rather than punitive measures.

- Council Roles and Responsibilities -Move first bullet point to under “Board Authority and Responsibilities”; Add the below bullet points.
 - Advocating for child care services through the public workforce system.
 - Assist with identifying and securing resources necessary for the effective operation of child care services.
 - Review data on child care program and quality initiatives to provide input and recommendations that will influence the work of the advisory council
 - ADD-attendance here.
- Reporting
 - Remove first bullet (Staff will share minutes)
 - “The Council Chair shall prepare a written report of each meeting, including any recommended policy changes, that will be shared with the Executive Committee and the full Board”
 - This convening body will provide insights, expertise, and recommendations that can be shared with the Workforce Solutions Board of Directors for consideration of approval.

III. Child Care Quality Plan FY26

The Child Care Quality Plan was discussed. It was noted that the document is currently located in the Teams folder and has not yet been approved. The plan includes three distinct training tracks:

- Teachers
- Directors
- Behavior support

TWC is responsible for approving the plan. Once approved, TWC will upload the document and manage updates on the public website.

The activities outlined in the plan were developed using data gathered from the survey that was previously conducted. Survey results indicated strong support for the proposed elements:

- 95% of respondents recommended the inclusion of incentives
- 97% recommended the use of curriculum

The group discussed the importance of thoughtful implementation, emphasizing the need to identify effective strategies and carefully select curriculum partners to ensure meaningful results. The focus is on outcomes and impact rather than simply implementation.

Concerns were raised regarding provider autonomy, specifically that childcare providers should have the ability to choose which curriculum is used and how it is implemented within their programs. Additional concerns were discussed related to behavioral training, particularly around supporting children with autism, and ensuring that training in this area is appropriate, inclusive, and effective.

IV. Child Care Property Tax

The Chair requested that the child care property tax exemption be included in the meeting agenda to discuss the advantages for provider in completing the required property tax forms. It was noted that the exemption process operates at the county level and can result in a significant tax benefit for eligible providers.

The importance of distributing this information to each child care center was discussed, along with acknowledgment that the process involves multiple steps and coordination with county offices.

Mindy-responded that, due to regulatory requirements, Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas can provide the number of children being served who receive the state scholarship (CCS). No additional provider-specific information can be shared. Completion of the property tax exemption process is the responsibility of the individual provider working directly with their county.

V. Update from Stakeholder

The Quarterly Impact Report was presented during this portion of the meeting. The document is available in the Teams channel for reference. No questions or concerns were raised regarding the report or the information presented.

VI. Questions or Consideration for the future

VII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjourn

-Meeting was adjourned by Chair Pierce at