

Early Childhood Advisory Council Agenda
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Summary

Attendees:

Carrie Pierce, Chair
Jennifer Gonzalez
Kiersten Populo
Mindy Ross
Katrese Scott
Amy Cohen
Noreen White

Guests

Marla Moon
Lisa Colyer
Mary Ross
Tiffany Falconer

I. **Call to order – Carrie Pierce, Chair**

Meeting called to order by Chair Pierce at 12:04 p.m.

II. **Review [Child Care by the Numbers](#) – Lisa Colyer and All**

Lisa reviewed information and said it's available on TWC's website and is updated monthly. She highlighted several key data elements. West Central has met performance each year. As funding has increased, our performance target increases, and enrollment increases. The number of children in TRS care has increased substantially year over year. We are serving about 1,600 children, which is approximately 1,000 families. The percentage of children in TRS care has increased to about 61%--this reflects the increase in number of providers meeting TRS standards. We have seen a 66% decrease in children in non-TRS facilities. Non-TRS providers reflect new providers and entities that are not meeting standards currently. Waitlist numbers have declined from 1,350 to 1,000 and we are actively placing. The total number of providers is consistent, but the percentage of TRS providers has increased from 50% to 70%. Currently we have about 14 providers who are awaiting review by centralized assessor—10 are recertifications and 4 are new. The number of slots with TRS providers has increased from 3950

to 5400 due to quality activities. 652 unique employers represented by childcare parents has increased to 708 unique employers.

Question about number of child care staff who are receiving CCS services? This is not provided by TWC, but we can identify locally based on provision of incentives and identification of staff as a local priority group.

III. **Provide updates on TX3C – Lisa Colyer**

Carrie noted that the system has improved since its implementation in January. Lisa explained that the shift to prospective payments is now functioning as intended. Providers can now see how much they are getting paid, which children they are being paid for, etc. KinderConnect indicated that the payment file is not correct and to only view documents. Board staff are now receiving weekly updates and daily sessions have been reduced to twice weekly. Office hours are now available for Boards as well to address individual questions.

IV. **Review [2024 Annual Report](#) for West Central Texas – Mary Ross**

Mary Ross reviewed the annual report and highlighted employers and jobseekers served, Hiring Red White and You, career pathway/regional convener work, child care and selection of West Central Texas small employer of the year.

V. **Discuss future meeting dates – All**

Amy moved to change meeting date to Thursdays at noon and all voted in favor. MIndy will send out new meeting dates.

VI. **Information Item: [Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Subsidized Child Care Program – Report to the 89th Texas Legislature by Texas Workforce Commission.](#)**

Lisa shared that report is available and provides a lot of data. Overall, the report indicates that TWC is on track in meeting intended goals of child care program. Committee members expressed support for local staff.

Noreen White shared that ECI staff are available to provide training at no cost for in-home providers as well as centers. Most trainings are one hour. They can provide flyers to distribute to new and current providers. In addition to providing training, ECI wants to ensure that centers are aware of what to expect from ECI visits and how to talk to parents about ECI services/evaluations. They are also willing to talk at parent meetings or participate in parent conferences, which are required twice a year. For children up to age 3 years. Services are confidential, tailored to the family, provided on-site and most families pay nothing due to insurance or income.

Kiersten shared that this will be her last meeting as she will be moving to Idaho in June.

VII. **Adjourn – Carrie Pierce**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pierce at 1:23 p.m.

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