PN-3 Collaborative Meeting

August 21, 2024

TEXAS PN-3 COLLABORATIVE

children at Risk

TexProtects Champions for Safe Children

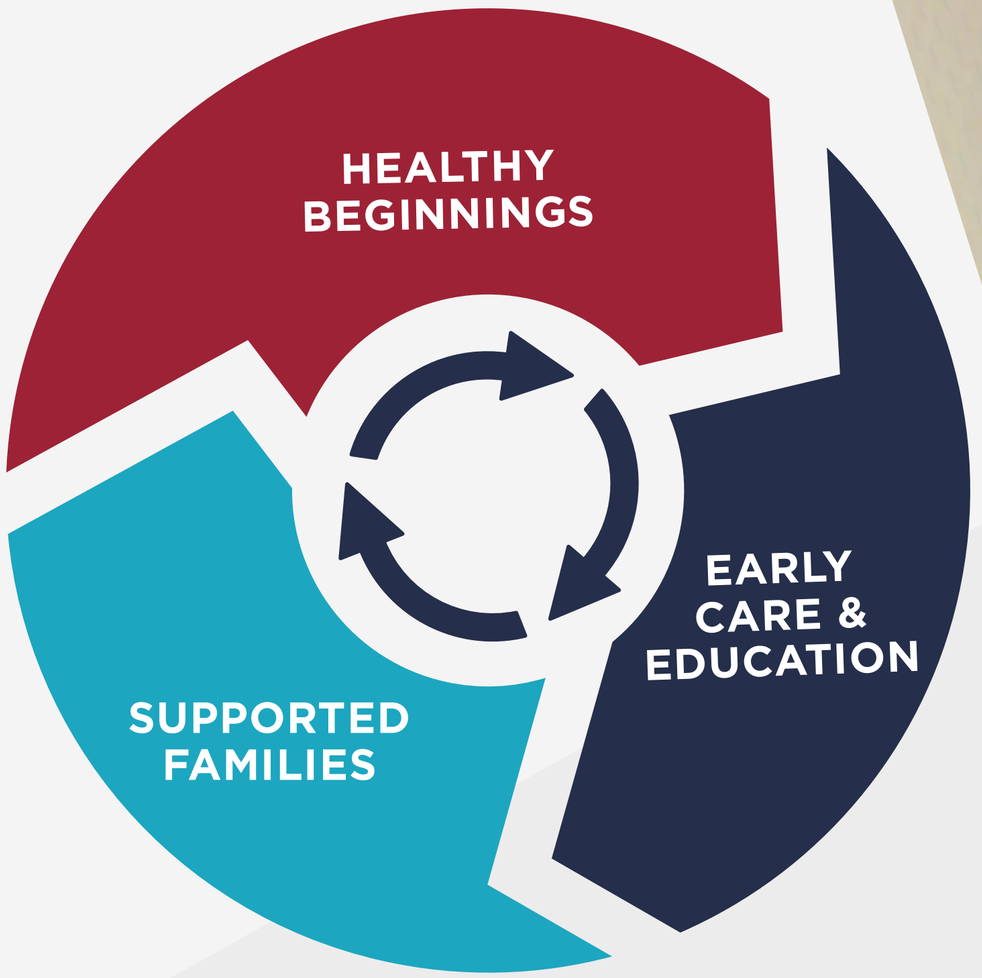
TEXANS CARE for CHILDREN

VISION

Ensure all Texas children are able to begin life with a strong foundation, have equitable access to health and early learning supports in their homes and their communities, and early childhood systems are aligned, coordinated, and well-funded to ensure young children and their families are healthy and thriving.

MISSION

The mission of the PN-3 Collaborative is to serve more than 400,000 additional infants and toddlers with health services, early child care and education and prevention and early intervention services by 2026.



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AGENDA

Agency Highlights & Updates

- Early Childhood Intervention, (HHS) Meghan Young
- Prevention and Early Intervention, (HHSC) Sarah Abrahams
- Child Care and Early Learning, (TWC) Allison Willson

Discussion Groups

- Child & Maternal Health, Texans Care for Children
- Family Supports, TexProtects
- Early Childhood Education, Children at Risk

Wrap-Up

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Prevention and Early Intervention, HHSC

Sarah Abrahams

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Health and Human Services

Early Childhood Intervention

Update for Texas Prenatal to Three Collaborative

August 21, 2024

Overview

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Health and Human Services

- About Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
- Historical challenges
- Looking ahead

About ECI

- Statewide program for families with children from birth to 36 months with developmental delays, disabilities or certain medical diagnoses that may impact development.
- ECI services support families to help their children grow and learn.
- 40 local ECI programs serving all Texas counties.

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Health and Human Services

Historical Challenges

- After a reduction in enrollment in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, ECI saw a steep increase in referrals and enrollments in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.
- During these years, enrollment outpaced targets in the General Appropriations Act.
- Additionally, due to method of finance constraints, ECI was not able to access the full appropriation in some years.

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88th Legislature and ECI Funding

- To keep up with caseload growth and to address method of finance constraints, HHSC requested an exceptional item in the Legislative Appropriations Request for fiscal years 2024-2025.
- The Legislature funded the exceptional item request and added additional funding, increasing the per-child-per-month funding target from $433.61 to approximately $440.50.

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Health and Human Services

ECI Funding and Children Served

Fiscal Year	Appropriation (All Funds)	Target Children Served per Month	Actual Children Served per Month
2022	$168,878,711	32,456	33,732
2023	$170,142,861	32,699	35,055
2024	$195,440,023	36,974	35,413*
2025	$201,166,548	38,053	TBD

*Projected

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Looking Ahead

- Caseload growth has stabilized post-COVID.
- ECI is preparing a request for applications (RFA) to be released in fiscal year 2025, inviting grant applications for the ECI program.
- To inform the RFA, ECI issued a request for information (RFI) in March.

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ECI RFI

- Questions covered funding, performance metrics and tracking, and training for local program leadership.
- ECI received 40 responses to the RFI.
- Respondents reported increased costs throughout the current contract cycle (fiscal years 2021-25), but the level of detail varied significantly across respondents.
- Respondents recommended that HHSC ECI continue to allocate all available funding at the beginning of each fiscal year.

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ECI RFI, continued

- Respondents recommended against an administrative funding cap.
- Respondents recommended that HHSC not require a set amount of local funding or philanthropic contributions.
- Every respondent recommended that HHSC change the ECI contract target to average monthly number of children *served* rather than *enrolled.*

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ECI RFA

- HHSC ECI plans to release RFA HHS0014626 in October 2024.
- HHSC has released the Procurement Forecast.
  - Review the Procurement Forecast
- Potential applicant conference and formal Q&A will be held in November 2024.
- HHSC cannot address RFA questions outside of the formal process.
- Interested parties can sign up to receive RFA information.

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Thank you

Meghan.Young@hhs.texas.gov

Early Childhood Intervention, HHS

Meghan Young

Child Care and Early Learning, TWC

Allison Willson

Breakout Rooms

Child & Maternal Health

Family Supports

Early Childhood Education

STAY UP TO DATE

Children At Risk

Kim Kofron, *Senior Director of Education*

kkofron@childrenatrisk.org

Advocacy Alerts: https://childrenatrisk.org/advocacy/

TexProtects

Kerrie Judice, *Director of Policy and Advocacy*

kerrie@texprotects.org

Advocacy Alerts: texprotects.org/take-action/advocate

Texans Care for Children

Adriana D. Kohler, JD, *Policy Director*

akohler@txchildren.org

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Breakout Room

Early Childhood Education

Questions to Consider

1- What policy focus needs are rising to the top?

2- Examples of this issue in your community?

3- Ideas for engaging people who are being affected?

Support working families and the ECE workforce (ECE Breakout)

- Ensure providers receive the full State established CCS reimbursement
- Serve more low-income children with State GR funds
- Prioritize income eligible child care employees for CCS
- Build pilots for foundational grants
- Expand the supply of family child care by removing local barriers
- Increase public private Pre-K partnerships by adjusting certificate of occupancy obstacles