



Governor's Task Force on Governance of Early Childhood Education and Care

Agenda

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Barbara Jordan Building State Office Building Room 2.013

The first meeting will formally launch the Task Force and begin building a shared understanding of both the problem to be solved and the outcomes the Task Force collective wants to achieve. Through presentations, public comment, and member discussion, the Task Force will:

- *Review the legislation/Governor's charge, scope, timeline, and expected deliverables*
- *Develop a shared understanding of the current early childhood education and care landscape in Texas, with a particular focus on challenges related to governance and other system components*
- *Hear perspectives from key state agencies and system leaders*
- *Surface member priorities and begin aligning around key questions for the Task Force's work*
- *Establish next steps and the plan for future meetings*

- I. Open Session Call to Order (*Peter Holt*)
- II. Welcome, Introduction & Remarks (*Peter Holt*)
- III. Discussion of the Task Force's Charges
 - *Governor's office charge and intent (overview of HB 117)*
 - *Expected deliverables*
 - *Overarching questions:*
 - ***Ideal state:*** *What do we collectively want to be true about TX's early childhood system?*
 - ***Current bright spots:*** *Where in the current landscape (TX or national) are we getting this most right, and what enables that to be true?*
 - ***Current roadblocks:*** *What is holding us back from accomplishing that at scale?*
 - ***Systems change:*** *What are the implications on the organizations, policies, tools, data, and funding mechanisms needed to drive toward our shared outcomes goals?*
- IV. Invited Comment

Purpose: Hear how major agencies view their role in the system, current priorities, and coordination challenges and establish a shared understanding of the current system and key challenges:

- *Overview of the early childhood system in Texas*
- *Key governance structures, funding streams, and program responsibilities*
- *Major challenges and opportunities for coordination, access, quality, and outcomes*
- State Agency Reports
 - Alferma Giles, Director, Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office (TXHSCO)
 - Reagan Miller, Division Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division, Texas Workforce Commission
 - Monica Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Standards and Programs, Texas Education Agency
 - Faith Sandberg-Rodriguez, Associate Commissioner for Early Family Nutrition and Development in Family Health Services (FHS), Health and Human Services Commission
 - Jennifer Vincent, Director of Field for the HHSC Child Care Regulation Day Care Program, Health and Human Services Commission
 - Lena Wilson, Assistant Commissioner, Food and Nutrition, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA - CACFP)
- Systems Perspectives
 - Overview of the system
 - Becky Calahan, Managing Director, Strategy and Operations, Philanthropy Advocates
 - Provider and family feedback
 - Wendy Uptain, Executive Director, Early Matters Texas
 - Kim Kofron, Director of Early Childhood Education, Children at Risk
 - Charles Miller, Director of Health and Economic Mobility Policy, TX2036
 - Business and Economic Perspectives
 - Sara Redington, Co-Founder, Best Place for Working Parents
 - Taylor Landin, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Greater Houston Partnership on behalf of “Metro 8” chambers

V. Closed Session

- *Plan for Future Meetings*
- *Timeline and cadence of meetings*

VI. Adjourn