



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

**Policy Council for Children and Families
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

**Brown-Heatly Building
Public Hearing Room
4900 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751**

Table 1: Policy Council for Children and Families member attendance at the February 5, 2019, council meeting.

Family Representatives	YES	NO	Professional Representatives	YES	NO
Brodie, Lisa	X		Daugherty-Pineda, Sara MSN	X	
Dilts, Nicole PhD		X	Ivey-Hatz, Julie PhD, LSSP	P	
Guiton, Cynthia		X	Klentzman, Mary	X	
Masey, Chris	X		Saxton, Josette		X
McLean, Margaret MSN	X		Tucker, Elizabeth	X	
Ortega-Ochoa, Jessica		X	Warren, Laura	X	
Rummel, Leah	X				
Sonnenberg, Lee MA		X			
Townsend, Janis MA		X	Youth Representative		
Vargas, Silvia		X	Morales, Nicolas	P	

"Yes" indicates attended the meeting. "P" indicates participation by phone.
"No" indicates did not attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions and Welcome

The Policy Council for Children and Families (PCCF) meeting convened at 10:05 a.m., with Council Chair Mr. Chris Masey and Mr. Jimmy Blanton, Director, Health Quality Institute, HHSC, welcoming participants to the meeting. Table 1 notes council member attendance at the meeting; it was noted a quorum was not present until 11:34 a.m.

Agenda Item 3: Legislative Update and event follow-up

Mr. Masey noted the work of members and staff on the 2018 legislative report, and members discussed the Council's legislative educational event and next steps.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The PCCF will track its 2018 legislative recommendations and will evaluate how each recommendation did at the close of the legislative session.
- Members will hand-deliver copies of the 2018 report to legislative offices.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation from the Texas Education Agency Special Populations Office

Mr. Justin Porter, State Director of Special Education, Texas Education Agency (TEA), reviewed the Power Point presentation, "Special Education in Texas A Need for Change, Current Performance in Texas." Mr. Porter advised members of special education enrollment trends; four-year graduation rates; achievement gap for students with disabilities; and, the persistence of the college and career readiness opportunity gap between special education and non-special education. Mr. Porter provided an overview of the TEA strategic plan and corrective action response for special education; highlights include:

- Review and Support team will review programs and services provided to students with disabilities, enhance the guidance and support for districts and charters in improving these efforts, and focus on improved outcomes, not just compliance.
- Evaluation capacity and support of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) needs in evaluating students requiring services.
- Infusion of \$65 million to support LEAs' need for compensatory services.
- Facilitation of more cross-district resource sharing and working to recruit new professionals.
- The planned launch of special education training for best practices in identifying, providing services to, and instructing students with disabilities.
- The release of a suite of resources intended to help educators and parents better understand the differences between Response To Intervention (RTI), Dyslexia, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- The provision of additional training resources for teachers on proper dyslexia practices.
- Certification, governance and statewide partnerships.
- Family Support Call Center, portal and resources.
- Opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
- The redesign and provision of grant opportunities to enhance technical assistance networks.

Agenda Item 2: Review and Approval of the November 14, 2018, draft meeting minutes (Vote required)

Mr. Masey referred members to the minutes from the November 14, 2018, meeting.

MOTION:

Ms. Laura Warren moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Mary Klentzman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with no nays nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 5: Council vacancies and the selection process

Mr. Blanton reviewed the handout, "Policy Council for Children and Families (PCCF) Appointment Terms," noting that half of the membership terms expired on December 31, 2018. Mr. Blanton advised he was collaborating with the HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO) on implementing the agency's streamlined membership solicitation and selection process, with the goal being the appointment of new members by the next quarterly meeting. Mr. Blanton and members discussed the issue of members who have missed consecutive meetings, including acting on the PCCF bylaws' attendance provisions to remove members. Members noted the PCCF is a working committee and requested that be emphasized during the selection process.

ACTION ITEM:

- Ms. Elizabeth Tucker requested HHSC to rethink its current membership solicitation process to eliminate the requirement that current, active members not be required to reapply for membership if they wish to continue serving on the PCCF.

Agenda Item 6: 2018 legislative report next steps

Mr. Masey noted this agenda topic was covered in Agenda Item 3, and reviewed the action items identified by members as next steps for the 2018 legislative report.

Agenda Item 7: 2020 legislative report: a. Lessons learned; b. Review mission and vision of the council; c. Timeline; and, d. Topic selection

Mr. Blanton referred to the handout, "PCCF Vision and Mission Statements," and advised members to consider if the statements are still relevant or will need tweaking. Mr. Blanton reviewed the Power Point handout, "PCCF Legislative Report Timeline 2019 Milestones (Proposed) and 202 Milestones (Proposed)," noting that the 2020 topics discussion will begin at the May 30, 2019, meeting. Members discussed the overall structure and topics for the 2020 legislative report; highlights included:

- Figure out a way to separate the legislative recommendations from the HHSC recommendations.
- Format and structure of the report.
- Determining if the report is parent-driven and/or policy-driven.
- What to keep from the 2018 legislative report, and lessons learned.
- Identification of policies that need significant changes.
- Include the perspective of parents with younger children.
- Pair family stories and photographs with the legislative recommendations, and not why policies are so personally important.
- Include the stories and perspectives of parents of children with special needs who are hospitalized.
- Create a training for service coordinators and include the stages parents travel through.
- Create and implement an informal mentoring process for the new members, including a mini boot camp.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mr. Blanton will research if other HHSC advisory committees have an orientation process, including a mentoring program for new members.

Agenda Item 8: Action Items for Staff or Member Follow-up

Ms. Mia Medina noted the following action items:

- Staff will create a PCCF legislative recommendation tracking form.
- Staff will review the 2018 legislative report for “person first” language.
- Staff will review the PCCF bylaws for guidance on removal of members, and will reach out to those members who have not been in attendance.
- Staff will look at the membership solicitation applications to ensure meeting attendance and participation is included.
- Mr. Blanton will check on the retention of prior membership solicitation applications.
- Mr. Blanton and Ms. Medina will check on mentoring new members, and an enhanced orientation process.
- Ms. Medina will update and revise the PCCF legislative report timeline.
- Staff will look at the possibility of scheduling an additional PCCF meeting prior to the quarterly meeting on May 30, 2019.
- A legislative workgroup will be formed and include Ms. Margaret McLean, Ms. Leah Rummel, Ms. Sara Daugherty-Pineda, Ms. Josette Saxton and Ms. Warren.

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn

Mr. Masey adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Webcast link: <https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/02052019-2350>