

Create an
*Office for Early Childhood
Coordination*

Early Care & Education Public Policy Committee

- Hosted by Camp Fire Boys and Girls – First Texas Council
- Met from January through May, 2000
- Goal: to develop a 77th Texas Legislative Session agenda based on the Camp Fire Public Policy Position Statement
- Agenda approved by Camp Fire Board of Directors on May 22, 2000

Camp Fire Public Policy Position Statement

- Camp Fire Boys and Girls – First Texas Council believes that local, state, and federal public policy related to *Early Care and Education* and *Youth Development* should be ***based on the needs of children and youth.***
- In support of this belief, *Early Care and Education* and *Youth Development* public policy should:
- develop pro-active public policy based upon a range of valid scientific research data and methodologies.
- support the primary role that parents have in developing a socially, mentally, spiritually and physically healthy child.
- seek to develop an infrastructure of broad community support to assist parents in their responsibility for the development of a healthy child.
- ensure the professional development of individuals who provide early care and education for children.
- promote the development of youth assets as the means for all children to achieve life success.
- Camp Fire Boys and Girls – First Texas Council believes that public policy for children and youth should ***recognize that a developmental continuum exists from birth to adulthood.***

77th Texas Legislative Session Agenda

- Create an Office for Early Childhood Coordination that will be housed within the Health & Human Services Commission
- Create and implement a multi-tiered childcare center/home care provider certification system that not only includes best practices drawn from the Texas CCMS designated vendor model, but also draws from nationally recognized multi-tiered childcare certification models

77th Texas Legislative Session Agenda

- Request that the TDPRS Board amend TDPRS regulations to require that at least 6 of the total 15 clock hours of annual training required of child care staff include training in one or more of the following content areas: child growth and development, guidance and discipline, age-appropriate curriculum, and teacher-child interaction.
- Request that the TEA Board link and Early Childhood Certification process to each school district's ability to achieve Exemplary status.

Early Care & Education Public Policy Committee Members

- John Ross, Camp Fire
- Linda Winkleman, Camp Fire
- Geania Dickey, Corporate Champions for Children
- Rose Morelock, Fort Worth AEYC
- Elaine Klos, Fort Worth ISD
- Lesley Vann, Sid Richardson Child Development Center
- Mark Mendez, Tarrant County
- Wayne Zatopek, Tarrant County College
- Liz Sisk, Tarrant County Youth Collaboration
- Neta Pierce, TDPRS
- Jennifer Sims, Texas Senator Mike Moncrief
- Pat Cheong, United Way of Metro Tarrant County
- Dr. Carol Sue Marshall, UTA
- Barbara Ragland, US Representative Kay Granger
- Dr. Margaret Puckett, Work Advantage

Why create an Office for Early Childhood Coordination?

- Infant Brain Development Movement
- The Smart-Start Movement
- The Youth Assets Movement

Texas Momentum

- Texas I Am Your Child Network
- 76th Legislative Session Texas Performance Review call for a Texas Plan for children zero-to-three
- Dr. Bruce Perry
- Senator Mike Moncrief

What would the OECC do?

- *Create and implement strategic imperatives to:*
- ensure appropriate community support for parents of all children from birth to six years old through an integrated state and local level decision-making process
- demand the seamless delivery of services to all children from birth to six years old to ensure that all children are ready to succeed in school

What would the OECC do?

- *Identify:*
- gaps in early childhood services
- state policies, rules, and service procedures that prevent or inhibit children from birth to six from accessing available services
- all early childhood services funding streams
- quantifiable benchmarks for success within early childhood service delivery
- national best practices in early care and education delivery models

What would the OECC do?

- *Make recommendations to HHSC concerning how:*
- to ensure optimum collaboration and coordination between state agencies serving the needs of children from birth to six years old
- to fill gaps in early childhood services
- amend state policies, rules, and service procedures that prevent or inhibit children from birth to six years old from accessing available services

How would the OECC be managed?

- Staff of four, with projected annual budget of \$275,000-\$325,000

- Board of Directors with representation from:

The Governor's Interagency Group

Texas Dept. of Human Services

The Children's Trust Fund

Texas Dept. of Protective & Regulatory Services

Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention

Texas Dept. of MHMR

Texas Education Agency

Texas Workforce Commission

Texas Department of Health

Early Childhood Community

Parents from various communities

Faith community

Law Enforcement

Business community

Social Services Agencies

How many Texas Children will be served by the OECC?

- Over 2 million Texas children from 0-5 years old
- As many as 60% of those children are in some way touched by the agencies to be coordinated
- Minimum of \$1.5 billion federal dollars annually

Current Formal & Informal OECC Support

- Austin Child Care Council
- Children's Hospital Association of Texas
- Corporate Champions for Children: Tarrant County
- Crime Prevention Resource Center: Tarrant County
- Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
- I Am Your Child Texas Network
- Mental Health Association of Texas
- Metro Eight Chambers of Commerce (pending)
- Tarrant Area Community of Churches
- Tarrant County Youth Collaboration
- Texans Care for Children: statewide collaboration (pending)
- United Way of Texas