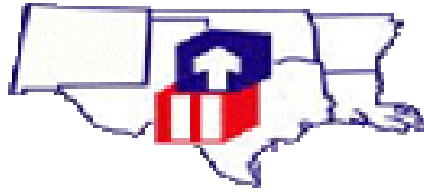


**REGION VI HEAD START ASSOCIATION**  
**Quarterly Reporting Form**



**Name: Alferma Giles, Ph.D.**

**Position: TXHSCO Director**

**Meeting Date: April 7, 2025**

**Organization: Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office**

**Address: [Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Alferma.Crawford@uth.tmc.edu)**

**Correspondence: Emails and/or phone calls to:**

President Crystal Pena, Michelle Joubert, Kahree Wahid, Ernestine Padilla, Casey Lafferty, Paula Brown, Jackie Govan, Monica Coats, Donna Hicks & Deana Howell

**Reporting Information:**

This report reflects the activities and engagement of the TXHSCO since the **January 25, 2025 meeting:**

**PRIORITY 1:** Collaborate with state systems to align early care and education services and supports for children and families prenatally to age 5.

**Participated** in several meetings with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), State PreK, and the Texas Workforce Commission to create a family-facing eligibility screener to finalize the work on developing an Early Childhood Eligibility Screener. The tool will be an online screener that a family can complete to determine which program(s) their child or children might qualify for, along with instructions on how to find programs to apply for Head Start, State PreK, or Child Care.

- The process included a survey of state partners, parents, HS/EHS Grantees, and the Texas Head Start Association Board to provide comments and input. Several volunteers from Head Start, State PreK and Child Care will participate in a focus group to further discuss the eligibility screener.
- The team participated in a meeting with the development of the mobile version of the screener on 3/27 to review and provide comments on the final version of the screener prior to the focus group review/discussions. The final document will be housed on the Early Childhood Texas Website. The launch date is **May/2025**.

**Participated** in a quarterly meeting with Children At Risk, PN-3 Collaborative group. The focus was on the Texas PN3 collaborative's goal to support over 400,000 additional infants and toddlers by 2026, emphasizing a whole-child approach with equitable access and aligned systems. Key presentations included policy priorities for supported families by Text Protects, highlighting the need for comprehensive services and increased funding, and for Healthy Beginnings by Texans Care for Children, which focused on maternal health initiatives. The Children's Funding Project discussed Texas' revenue sources and proposed new tax options to improve funding for early childhood programs. The meeting included participant feedback, discussions on political strategies, and forthcoming events such as the March 6th rallies. Action items were assigned for ongoing advocacy and collaboration among participants.

**Participated** in a quarterly meeting with the **Houston Infant/Toddler Coalition** to plan for 2025:

- Increase public awareness about promoting early development and support for parents & caregivers, with an emphasis on early relationships & bonding.
- Improve developmental monitoring practices & quality of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) referrals; support the outreach components of Help Me Grow.
- Develop capacity to ensure a stable, well-trained workforce, with a specific focus on home-based child care.

**PRIORITY 2:** Work with state efforts to collect and use data on early childhood programs to guide decision-making and improve child and family outcomes.

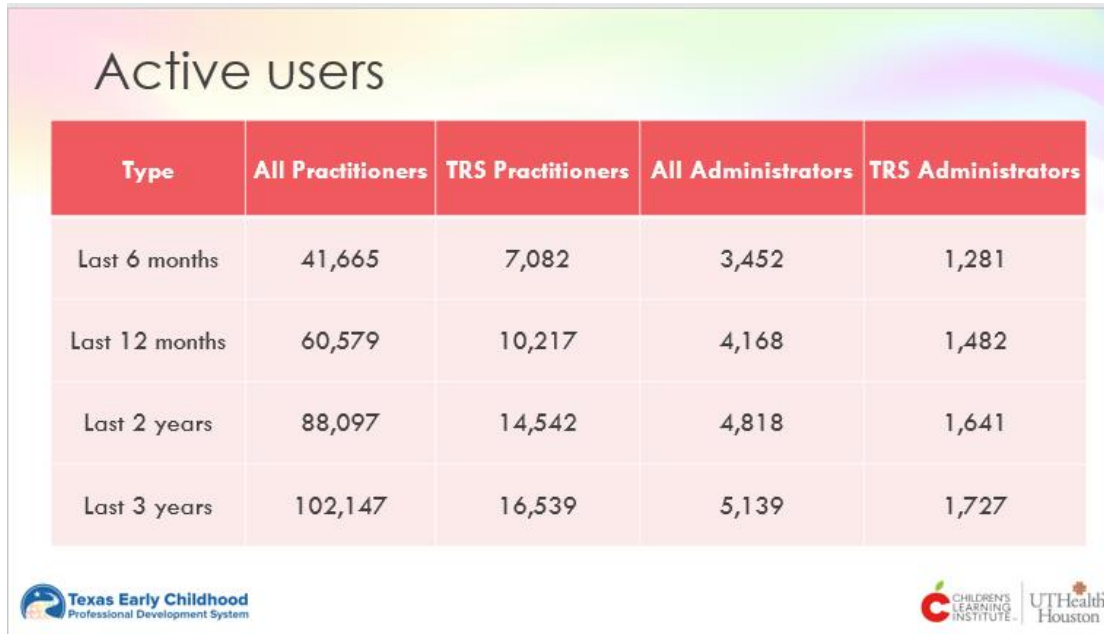
**Participated** in Learn the Signs/Act Early Texas quarterly meetings, serving as an ambassador to Texas supporting the data collection for 2025. The Texas Deputy Ambassadors provided information and data regarding their work sharing "Learn the Signs. Act Early" (LTSAE) and Family Engaged Developmental Monitoring (FEDM) Information within their localities, organizations, and coalitions. Act Early Texas continues to offer parents and early childhood professionals valuable information to pinpoint areas where a child's development may differ from their peers, ensuring timely intervention.

**PRIORITY 3:** Support the expansion of and access to high-quality workforce and career development opportunities for staff.

The Texas School Ready (TSR) Summer Institute will be hosted virtually this year by the Children's Learning Institute (CLI); and the State Center for Early Childhood Education:

- <https://tsrsummerinstitute.org/> Link to the conference page
- Registration starts **March 26, 2025** Be on the lookout for Proposal requests
- Call for Proposals opens: **March 26, 2025**
- Deadline for proposal submission via online submission: **April 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. CDT**
- Speaker notifications (acceptance and denial letters) issued by: **May 7, 2025**
- Speaker acceptance deadline: **May 12, 2025**

## Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)



### Updates to the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)

The **TXHSCO** serves on the advisory committee for the TECPS to support decision-making, planning, and progression of the registry activities:

- Several out-of-state companies that want to utilize organizational dashboard tools
- Child Care Regulation discussing possible next steps for optional statewide usage by inspectors
- Early Matters Alamo in San Antonio has discussed regional data and how they can support TECPDS onboarding
- Request from TWC for FY26 Run and Maintain and One-Time Enhancement budgets
- The National Association of Family Child Care about utilizing TECPDS at their annual conference

#### FY25 Work/Activities

- Machine Learning for Records Verification – Intelligent Document processing
- Single-user sign-on
- Networking Tool
- Mobile-Friendly Web
- TECPDS in Vietnamese
- Career Pathways Study
- Improved User Experience

**PRIORITY 4. Coordinate with school systems to ensure continuity and alignment across programs, as appropriate.**

**Participated** in a meeting with the Texas Health & Human Services Commission/Family Support Services Special Projects Manager to explore ways to better understand and utilize data related to Head Start programs, including identifying where programs are located, the types of data being collected, and how this information can inform strategic decisions and partnerships, learning how to engage with Head Start programs, priorities, and to explore opportunities for regular collaboration and meetings.

**OTHER:**

**Participates** in quarterly meetings with state agencies and community partners to support Head Start/Early Head Start: Texas Early Learning Council, Texas 619 Coordinator, Texas Oral Health Partners, Texas Education for Homeless Children & Youth (TECHY),

I am in the process of completing the work on the TXHSCO 5-Year Needs Assessment Report & Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 and beginning the initial preparation to complete the TXHSCO 5-Year Grant Application that is due on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CONFERENCE /MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES & ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION:**

**Texas Head Start Association Fall Conference**

November 12-15 | Dallas, TX

**NHSA Parent & Family Engagement Conference**

December 16-19 | San Diego, CA

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**ERSEA Certification Series** – Refer to the dates on the [TXHSA](#) Website

**Head Start Leadership Summit**

May 1-2, 2025 | Austin, TX

**NHSA Conference**

May 19-22 | Columbus, OH

**TXHSA Summer Conference**

June 24-26 | South Padre Island, TX

**Fall Leadership Institute**

September 16-18 | DC

**Region VI/TXHSA Association Fall Conference**

October 21-24 | Dallas, TX

**Parent & Family Engagement Conference**

December 9-11 | Orlando, FL

**Board Action Items: None**

**Report Attachments (if any):**

**Signature(s):** *Alferma Giles* **Date Submitted:** 4/2/25

TXHSCO website: <https://texashssco.org/>

