

# Texas Rising Star 4-Year Review Workgroup Conference Call #7

November 18, 2019

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

The Workgroup used a new feature to assist with the flow of the conference call and to determine consensus within the group. At pivotal points in the discussion a poll pod was posted for the workgroup to use to show agreement or disagreement with the proposed change.

## Agenda Overview

- The Workgroup was able to review revised measures for Category 1, 3, and 4.
- The Workgroup was unable to review the drafted revised screening form for each facility type so this topic will be discussed on the next call.
- The Workgroup was unable to review the revised guidelines specific to nationally accredited programs so this topic will be discussed on the next call.

## Draft Measures: Category 1

### **S-DQT-02: Director Training**

- This measure was recommended for removal and placed within Continuous Quality Improvement Plans (CQIP) for the early learning program director.
- The Workgroup suggested that until TWC provides the certification course there is no reason to keep this measure, therefore placing it within the CQIP makes sense.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove this measure from Texas Rising Star and place within the CQIP.

### **S-DQT-04: Director Training**

- This measure was recommended for revision to combine DEQT-06 (specific training hours) and mimic the similar measures specific for homes/ school age directors.
- Proposed measure: *Director has an individualized plan that provides for a minimum of 36 clock hours of training on an annual basis, to include a minimum of 6 hours in program administration, management and supervision in the director's file.*
- The Infant Toddler Early Learning Guidelines and PreK guidelines training would be a pre-require for application to Texas Rising Star and those currently in the program would have one year to obtain was proposed to the Workgroup.
- The Workgroup expressed concerns with providers having to wait to apply for Texas Rising Star to meet training requirements for directors. Mentoring would include assisting directors in obtaining the necessary training.
- Within this measure there is a current allowance for initial applicants to be scored not applicable. The Workgroup discussed removing this allowance versus keeping it. The Workgroup does not want to remove this allowance; therefore N/A will remain for initial applicants.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to revise this measure as written.

### **P-DEQT-04: Director Experience**

- For this measure, the CLI study suggested the following scores for years' experience:
  - Less than a year = 0
  - 2-5 years = 1
  - 6-10 years = 2
  - 10+ years = 3
- The Workgroup previously discussed this measure and did not agree to the change in scoring.
- A revised set of scoring was proposed to the Workgroup for years of experience:
  - Less than 2 years = 0
  - 2-3 years = 1
  - 4-5 years = 2
  - 6+ years = 3

- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to the change in scoring proposed as written.

#### **P-DEQT-05: Director Experience (School-age)**

- This measure mimics the years of experience to other facility types (DEQT-04) therefore the revised set of scoring is the same as the proposed scoring for DEQT-04.
- The Workgroup agreed to this change as written.

#### **S-COTQ-01 & 02: Staff Orientation**

- This measure was recommended to combine COTQ-01 and COTQ-02 measures that previously split volunteers/substitutes to be inclusive of any staff that is counted in ratio.
- Per the CLI study, 86% of the study sample scored N/A for COTQ-02.
- Proposed measure: *Before beginning child care duties all staff (to include volunteers or substitutes, if applicable) receives documented, in-person, interactive orientation with the director/administrator to improve knowledge of the child care operation, specific job responsibilities and needs of children.*
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to the combination of the two measures as written.

#### **S-COTQ-03 & 06: Caregiver Training**

- This measure was recommended to combine COTQ-03 and COTQ-06 measures that previously split having a training plan and obtaining required training hours.
- The Workgroup had previously agreed to combine these measures.
- Proposed Measure: *An individualized plan provides for a minimum of 30 clock hours of child care related training specific to the age of children in their care. All child care staff participates in training according to the approved plan. The training certificates do align to the individualized written training plan.*
- The Workgroup discussed how are teachers are accounted for if they move to a different class age group, to include noting this change within the teacher's training plan to include the dates of change and that TRS staff may need to do a deeper look regarding trainings for these individuals.
- The Workgroup would like additional clarification provided within the Technical Scoring Manual (TSM).
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to the combination of the two measures as written with additional TSM guidance being provided.

#### **P-CQT-03: Caregiver Staff Training**

- This measure was recommended to be removed as all of the early learning program staff will be required to place education, experience and training information into the Workforce Registry (WFR), which will validate training hours and alignment to Core Competencies.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove this measure from Texas Rising Star.

### **Draft Measures: Nutrition (Category 4)**

#### **S-N-01: Program Practices**

- This measure was recommended to be placed within Category 5 and revised to focus on parent education or to be placed within S-PE-01 (Category 5) with specific guidance within the TSM.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to summarize the measure and move it to S-PE-01.

#### **S-N-02: Home Lunch Practices**

- This measure was recommended to be placed within Category 5 and revised to focus on parent education or to be placed within S-PE-01 (Category 5) with specific guidance within the TSM.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to summarize the measure and move it to S-PE-01.

#### **S-N-03 Menu Planning**

- This measure was recommended to be removed as Child Care Licensing will begin requiring early learning programs to meet CACFP requirements for meal planning/service therefore this measure as currently written is duplicative.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove the measure from Texas Rising Star.

### **Added measure S-N-03 b: Health and Nutrition Practices**

- The Workgroup discussed adding a new measure to TRS, a point-based measure that focuses on demonstration of nutrition and health practices.
- Proposed Measure: *Provider demonstrates health and nutrition policies, for children and parents, that are structured to ensure the program supports the whole child's development.*
- The Workgroup discussed the different evidence examples and suggested gathering some examples resources from HHSC and other agencies to provide to early learning programs.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure as written to TRS.

### **S-N-04 Breastfeeding Education**

- This measure was recommended to remove and placed within the new measure S-N-03b, which will be added to Category 5.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove the measure from Texas Rising Star, placing breastfeeding resources within another measure.

### **Category 3: Lesson Plans**

- The Workgroup previously discussed removing the specific lesson plan measures, LPC-02 through 15, as they are cumbersome to score and did not provide valid data from the CLI study, specifically for infants and toddlers. The current scoring methodology includes reviewing 4-weeks of lesson plans and counting activities planned.
- The proposed changes are to focus on curriculum and lesson planning in a more holistic, all-encompassing approach to add measures specific to curriculum, lesson planning supports, child assessments, and child assessment policy.

### **Curriculum:** Program utilizes curriculum in the various age groups served.

- The focus for curriculum is to have more intentional teaching and planning time.
- Proposed measure: *Program utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum that aligns with early learning guidelines/standards.*
- If using emergent curriculum, the early learning program would need to provide evidence that they aligned their activities or curriculum to early learning guidelines (ITELGs and PreK).
- The Workgroup requested more specific guidance on the evidence necessary for programs using emergent curriculum.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure with some modifications.

### **Curriculum Planning Supports:** Program provides support to teachers for curriculum planning.

- Proposed measure: *Program provides support to teachers for curriculum planning.*
- The Workgroup discussed the allowance for online resources, when reviewing the evidence examples. Based on discussion, the Workgroup agreed to allow online resources with some parameters on those online resource being credible resources.
- The Workgroup discussed the scoring criteria, specific to a score of 0 (no evidence of additional supports or director completes lesson plans for the teachers.) The Workgroup agreed to change the verbiage to change director to an external person (outside the classroom).
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure with some modifications to the clarification guidance.

### **Child assessments:** Program supports the use of assessments (formal and/or informal).

- Proposed measure: *Program supports the use of assessments (formal and/or informal) that measure children's developmental progress.*
- The Workgroup discussed the definitions for "formal" and "informal" and requested for additional definition and distinction.
- The Workgroup discussed concerns with some early learning programs might not currently be doing assessments and will not be able to implement this immediately (implementation timeline may be needed) and will need supports.

- Programs may need assistance and training in child assessments (possible financial investment), which can be provided by the Board areas or outside entities.
- Concerns with not many options for infant/toddler assessments.
  - Developmental screening can count as an informal assessment for infant/toddler.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure with some modifications to the clarification guidance.

**Assessments to Inform Teaching:** Program uses assessments to guide instructional planning.

- Proposed measure: *Program encourages and supports teachers to use assessments to guide their instructional planning for the children in their class.*
- For this measure, the teacher may be asked to articulate the assessments used and how those assessments guide their instruction.
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure.

**Planning for special needs and diversity**

- This measure was recommended to be revised and moved to Category 5. Current scoring does not reflect the intent of the measure and is too frequently marked not applicable.
- Proposed measure: *Program supports families and children who may need additional accommodations, to include home language, special needs/differing abilities and cultural backgrounds.*
- Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure.

**Next steps:**

- Workgroup members that voted for modifications with proposed measures were asked to submit those to the [TRS4YearReview@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:TRS4YearReview@twc.state.tx.us) email.
- Remaining measures within Category 3 and agenda items that were not discussed on the call will be moved to the agenda for the next call.
- Reminder the next call is Monday, December 2 at 11:30 am.