



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner  
*H. L. Whitman, Jr.*

Family and Protective Services Council Meeting  
Friday, February 8, 2019, 9:00 am  
701 West 51st Street, Austin, Texas 78714  
John H. Winters Building, Public Hearing Room

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Council Members Present:**

- Bonnie Hellums, Chair
- Dr. Dorothy Calhoun
- Omedi “Dee Dee” Cantu Arismendez
- Matt Kouri
- Liesa Hackett
- Greg Hamilton
- Janice Washington
- Aureka Simpson

Agenda Item 1 was to call the meeting to order at 9:01 am by Judge Hellums, Council Chair.

Agenda Item 2 was to approve the November 9, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.

Agenda Item 3 was to report on current Council activities and provide opening remarks by Judge Hellums.

Agenda Item 4 was a report from the Department of Family and Protective Services’ Commissioner. Commissioner Whitman provided updates on the current legislative session, lawsuit and the following programs: Prevention and Early Intervention, the Human Trafficking Division, Child Protective Investigations, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Statewide Intake.

Agenda Item 5 was a presentation on the Department’s advisory committees. Cheryl Gomez, Council Liaison, gave updates on the Committee on Advancing Residential Practices, Advisory Committee on Promoting Adoption of Minority Children, Public Private Partnership, Prevention Task Force, and Parent Collaboration Group.

Agenda Item 6 was a presentation on Trauma Informed Care efforts in Child Protective Services. Kristene Blackstone, Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services gave an overview of the efforts the department has made in training caseworkers in trauma informed care. Ms. Blackstone also discussed the trauma screening and the partnerships made to increase knowledge and implementation of trauma informed care.

Agenda Item 7 was a presentation on Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and the Prevention Taskforce and the latest recommendations to the Commissioner. Chairman Christopher Greeley discussed the goals of the Prevention Taskforce. Sasha Rasco, Associate Commissioner for PEI, highlighted different communities and the work grantees have accomplished with the funding from PEI.

Agenda Item 8 was a presentation on the Statewide Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Davina Hollin, youth program specialist, discussed the YLC objectives and how they advocate for youth.

Agenda Item 9 was public comment. Five stakeholders testified in front of the Council.

Agenda Item 10 was a break for lunch.

Agenda Item 11 was the Brain Architecture Game with PEI. Jennifer Green, Training Specialist with PEI, facilitated the Council and DFPS staff in the exercise to learn about how childhood experiences can affect the development of a young child's brain.

Agenda Item 12 was closing remarks. Judge Hellums closed the meeting thanking staff and attendees.

Agenda Item 12 was adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

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