

1 **Stakeholder and Public Input**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 House Bill (HB) 680, which was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019),
5 relates to the powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Local
6 Workforce Development Boards (Boards) regarding the provision of child care.

7 Section 4 of HB 680 amends §302.00435 of the Texas Labor Code to add subsection (b), which
8 requires TWC’s policy about stakeholder input to child care services to include methods for
9 obtaining input from the Texas Education Agency (TEA), school districts, open-enrollment
10 charter schools, subsidized child care providers, relevant businesses, and the public about:

- 11 • improving coordination between the subsidized child care program and prekindergarten
12 programs;
- 13 • increasing the quality of and access to the subsidized child care program;
- 14 • improving existing health and safety rules and regulations to be more efficient and/or less
15 costly without reducing health and safety outcomes; and
- 16 • identifying the burdens related to complying with existing regulations that should be
17 mitigated, reduced, or eliminated while maintaining the intent, objective, and/or purpose of
18 the underlying regulation.

19 **Issue: Stakeholder and Public Input Policy**

20 TWC currently gathers stakeholder and public input for the Child Care Services program,
21 including rule changes, Texas Rising Star reviews, and the State Plan. To demonstrate
22 compliance with HB 680, TWC may issue guidance to Boards about a state-level policy to gather
23 stakeholder and public input.

24 **Decision Point**

25 Staff seeks direction on implementing the following policy regarding stakeholder and public
26 input for the Child Care Program.

27
28 Staff also seeks direction on developing a web page on TWC’s website to inform the public of
29 TWC’s policy on stakeholder input and opportunities to provide input.

1 **Texas Workforce Commission**
2 **Opportunities for Child Care Stakeholders to Provide Input**

3 TWC’s three-member Commission (Commission) affords the public the opportunity to provide
4 input during any of its posted public meetings. Additionally, the Commission works with staff to
5 provide opportunities for:

- 6 • child care and early learning stakeholders to offer input on subsidized child care;
- 7 • TEA, school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, relevant businesses, and the public to
8 offer input on coordination between subsidized child care and pre-K;
- 9 • child care providers to offer input on existing health and safety regulations that could be
10 more efficient or less costly without reducing health and safety outcomes; and
- 11 • child care providers to offer input on burdens relating to complying with existing regulations
12 that could be mitigated, reduced, or eliminated while maintaining the intent, objective, or
13 purpose of the underlying regulation.

14 These input opportunities may be received from:

- 15 • the Texas Early Learning Council, of which TWC, TEA, and HHSC are members;
- 16 • specialized interagency and stakeholder workgroups, such as the Texas Rising Star Four-
17 Year Review Workgroup;
- 18 • regular meetings with agency partners and other stakeholders;
- 19 • regional meetings with local stakeholders;
- 20 • focus groups held at the annual Texas Early Childhood Learning Summit; and
- 21 • digital methods, including social media posts, email, and comments submitted via the TWC
22 website.