Texas Rising Star 4-Year Review Workgroup Call #8

December 2, 2019

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

The Workgroup continued to use the poll pod feature to assist with the flow of the conference call and to determine consensus within the group.

## Agenda Overview

* The Workgroup reviewed the remaining revised measures for Category 3 from the previous call, proposed group size revision, moving measures (Nutrition and IFAL), Category 5, draft screening forms and draft guidelines specific to Nationally Accredited Programs.
* The Workgroup was not able to reach consensus on the movement of Nutrition measures and the proposed Group Size Revision; therefore, they will revisit at a later date.

## Draft Measure: Instructional Formats for Approaches to learning

**P-IFAL-02a**

* This measure was recommended to be revised into 2 measures, based on feedback from assessors (observing the classroom not following schedules or lesson plans)
* Splitting this measure allows for a more succinct scoring and focus on balance as well as implementation of instruction.
* Proposed Measure:
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to split this measure into 2 measures, P-IFAL-02a and P-IFAL-02b. The Workgroup agreed to revise this measure as written.

**Adding P-IFAL-02b**

* The intent for this measure is to evaluate if the teacher plans the day to provide a balance of teacher-directed and child-initiated activities.
* Proposed Measure:
* Workgroup agreed to change the guidance to request interviewing as an option for determining score.
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure. The Workgroup agreed to revise this measure as written.

## Proposed Group Size Revision

* The Workgroup reviewed the research provided. TWC reviewed the following entities and their suggested group sizes. CCL, TRS, NAEYC, COA and AdvancED, creating a common range, which was the average number range within that age group with 2 teachers. When looking at Texas Rising Star group sizes for 2 teachers, the number ranges were compared to the common range. The was minimal discrepancy between Texas Rising Star’s group sizes and the common range.
* The Workgroup suggested to split the measure into 2 measures, one for ratio and the other for group size.
  + This is how the measure was at the 2015 revision however, it was changed and combined due to provider/stakeholder input.
* Recent legislation enacted will require Child Care Licensing (CCL) to start collecting observed group size and ratio at time of inspection, so at a later time we will have data to analyze/evaluate how group size/ratio correlates with quality levels (Texas Rising Star and national accreditations).
* The Workgroup was unable to reach a consensus. This topic will be discussed at a later time.

## Moving Measures

Based on some of the recommendations already proposed by the Workgroup, there may be a need to move additional measures to other categories within Texas Rising Star. The Workgroup reviewed each to determine placement.

### Category 4 Nutrition Measures: P-N-01 through P-N-06

**P-N-01: Dining Opportunities**

* CCL confirmed that most of the evidence of support in this measure is a duplicate of the minimum standards.
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove this measure.

**P-N-02 through P-N-06**

* The Workgroup discussed placing these measures within Category 2: Interactions.
* CLI stakeholder noted that within the study they noted that these measures could possibly be combined with current measures. CCL confirmed that the infant ones are duplicate of minimum standards.
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to move these measures to Category 2 but would like to see them in DRAFT form before making a final recommendation.

### Category 3 IFAL Measures: P-IFAL-02 through P-IFAL-07

**IFAL Measures**

* The CLI study suggested that these best correlate to interactions and could be placed within Category 2 and have its own sub-category (much like Warm-Responsive; Language Facilitation; Play-Based Guidance and Self-Regulation)
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to move these measures into Category 2.

### Category 5

**Remove S-PE-02**

* This measure is very similar to CCL minimum standards; therefore, the recommendation is to remove.
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to remove measure.

**Rename the Category to Program Administration**

* The Workgroup discussed renaming the category to Program Administration. This will allow for the encompassing new measures and revised measures to better fit as described. The subcategories will be as follows:
  + Family Education
  + Family Involvement
  + Program Management
* Via the polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to rename the category and have the 3 subcategories noted.

**New measure P-PM-01**

* A new measure was proposed to the Workgroup for consideration based on feedback from stakeholders. This measure would focus on the formal compensatory supports a program offers its staff.
* Proposed Measure: *Program offers staff formal compensatory supports to encourage staff retention.*
* Supports include, but not limited to:
* Having a written wage/salary scale when hiring, internal career lattice, and the allowance for growth within
* Providing benefits (Medical, Dental, 401K, EAP, Supplemental and/or Life insurance)
* Paid planning time (not during naptime)
* Paid time off (holiday, sick, and/or personal)
* Educational Assistance (professional development outside of the required training hours, stipends, and/or scholarships, which could include participation in the TEACH program)
* Employee recognition programs – was a requested addition from the Workgroup
* The Workgroup requested that providers understand that this measure should be seen as an incentive; therefore, explaining this change, as well as all the revisions, will have a coordinated effort so that programs and TRS staff have a clear understanding of the requirements or options.
* The Workgroup would like to have a FAQ created to help message the intent of this change as well as others.
* Via polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to add this measure as written.

## Proposed Categories

The Workgroup reviewed how the categories currently stand regarding revisions applicable to title and total numbers.

* Revised titles:
  + Category 1: Director and Staff Qualifications and Training
  + Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions
  + ~~Category 3~~
  + Category 4: Indoor/Outdoor Learning Environments
  + Category 5: Program Administration
* Revised number - 4 categories
* The Workgroup will discuss changes on how the categories are weighted and/or the methodology of scoring (median vs average) at a later date.

## Draft Screening Forms-Centers, Homes, and School-age

The Workgroup reviewed the proposed changes to the screening forms that had been previously agreed upon. A sample DRAFT version of each of the program type screening forms were provided to the Workgroup for their review.

* All had changes in terminology:
  + Critical changed to Level 1
  + High/Medium-High to Level 2
  + Deficiency changed to violation
  + Provider changed to facility or program as applicable
* All moved standards from critical (Level 1) to high/medium-high (Level 2) for:
  + Director Training
  + Staff Training
* Via polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to the changes in terminology and movement of standards.

The Workgroup previously agreed to change the screening process to review the current previous 6-months of CCL history instead of 12-months, but still required to have at least 12 months of history before applying.

* CCL noted that they are changing their process to provide 5-years of licensing history on their website rather than 3-years.
* After some discussion, the Workgroup would like to revisit the changes to the timeframe.

## Draft Guidelines: Nationally Accredited Programs

Based on the feedback provided from the Workgroup and the regional focus groups, TWC has drafted proposed changes regarding nationally accredited programs within the Texas Rising Star Guidelines. The Workgroup was provided a DRAFT version of this specific section of the Guidelines for review to include the proposed changes below:

* The word provider has been changed to “early learning program” or “facility” as applicable.
* Head Start (and Early Head Start) is listed as a program type that may be certified as Texas Rising Star as long as they are regulated by CCL (and must meet eligibility requirements).
* ACSI has been moved from being under review to being accepted by TWC
* All nationally accredited programs obtaining initial certification will undergo a full modified assessment instead of automatic certification. This modified assessment will only encompass the categories relating to interactions and environments. This changes the allowance for a visit from the program’s national accrediting body to be an automatic certification. All nationally accredited programs will have to undergo modified initial and recertification assessments. The monitoring process was not changed.
* Via polling feature, the Workgroup agreed to these changes as written.

## Next Steps

* Reminder the next call is Friday, December 13 at 11:30 am.
* Next in-person meeting is Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 am at TWC Main – room 151.