

Texas PN-3 Collaborative

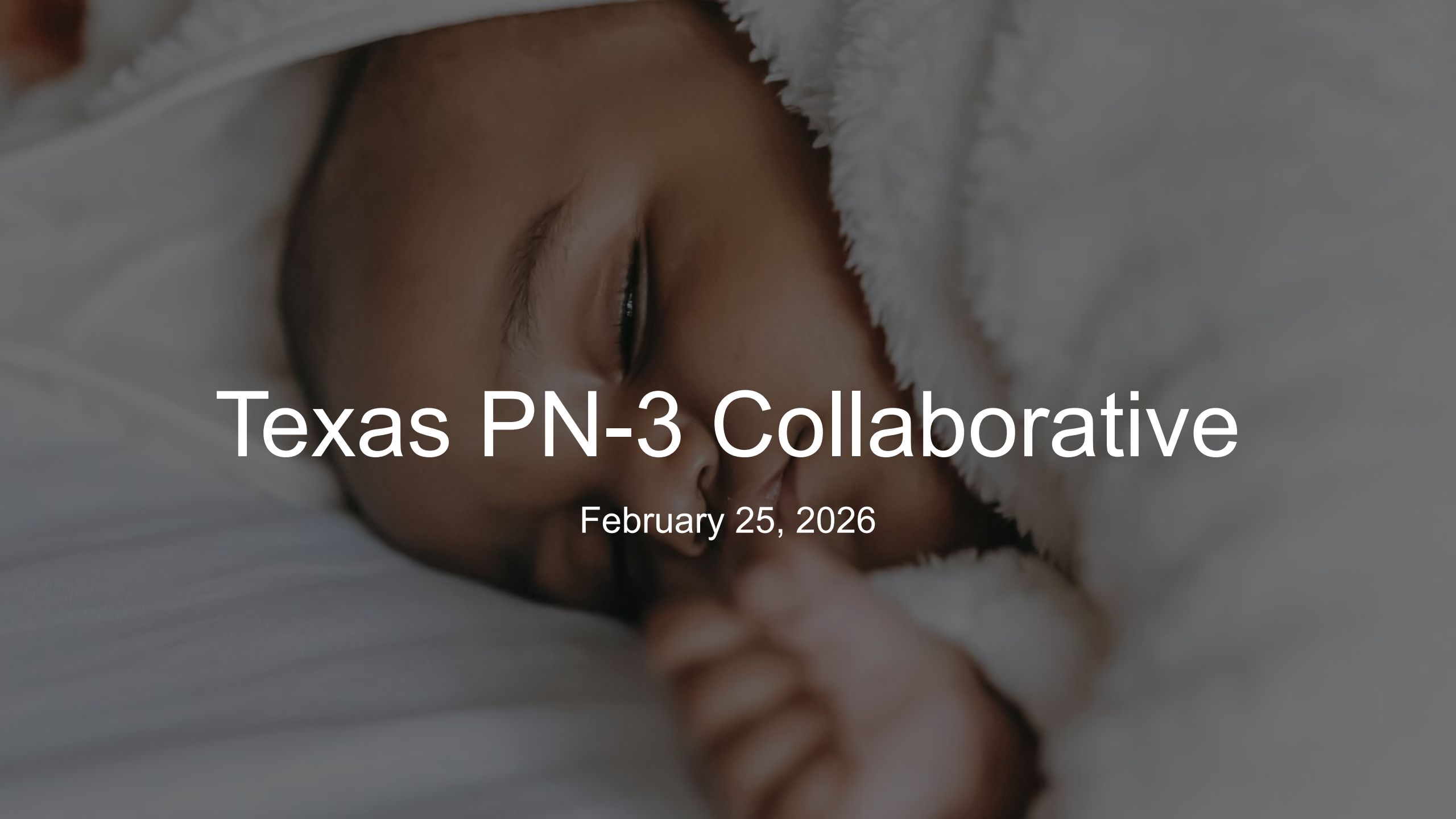
Quarterly Meeting

February 25, 2026

children
atRisk

20TH ANNIVERSARY
TexProtects

 TEXANS CARE
for CHILDREN



Texas PN-3 Collaborative

February 25, 2026

AGENDA

01

Welcome and Introductions: Kim Kofron, *C@R*

02

Federal Update: Danielle Ewen, *Sixth Street Associates*

03

Sunset Commission Intro: Mandi Kimball, *C@R*

04

Family Financial Security: Ashley Harris UWTX

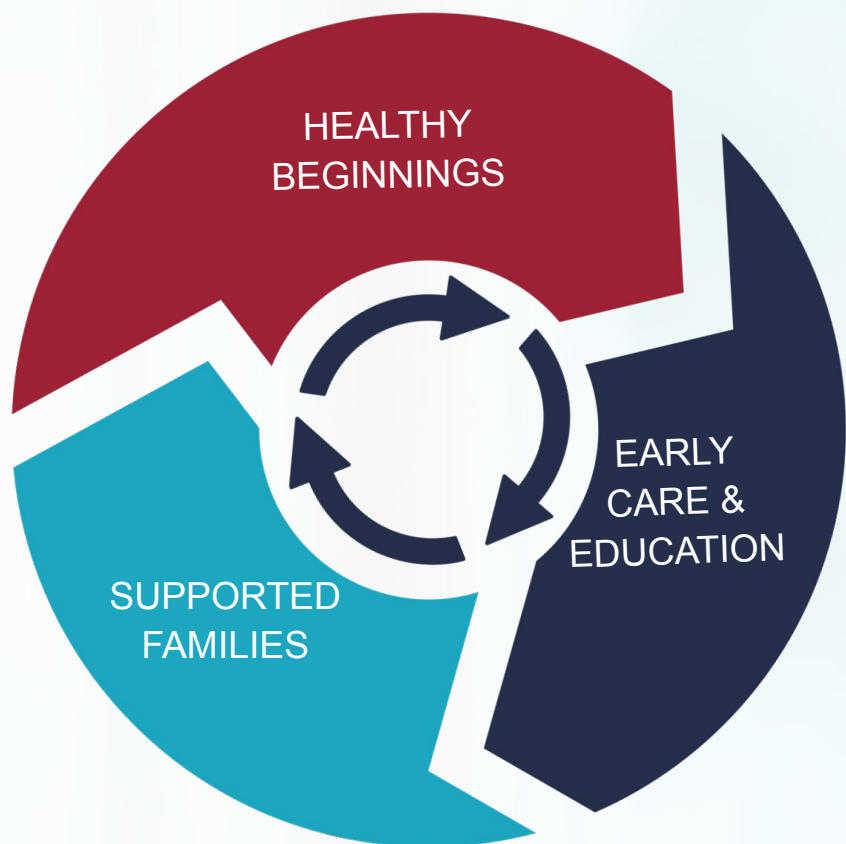
05

Connecting Families to Resources: Kerrie Judice, *TexProtects*, Ashley Harris UWTX,
Diana Forester, *Texans Care for Children*

06

Access to Quality Child Care: Kim Kofron, *C@R*

AREAS OF FOCUS



VISION

Ensure all Texas children are able to begin life with a strong foundation, have equitable access to health and early learning supports in their homes and their communities, and early childhood systems are aligned, coordinated, and well-funded to ensure young children and their families are healthy and thriving.



FEDERAL UPDATE

Danielle Ewen
Sixth Street Associates



SUNSET REVIEW

Mandi Kimball
CHILDREN AT RISK

The Sunset Review Process

Purpose



ACCOUNTABILITY & EFFICIENCY

The Sunset review process evaluates whether a state agency is still needed and whether it is operating effectively, efficiently, and in the public interest.



IMPROVE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

It identifies opportunities to streamline operations, eliminate duplication, strengthen oversight, and update statutes to reflect current needs.



PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its findings, the review determines whether an agency should be continued, modified, merged with another entity, or allowed to expire.

The Sunset Review Process Bills

**A “SUNSET BILL” IS THEN CRAFTED BASED ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TEXAS SUNSET COMMISSION.**

Legislation filed following the Sunset review process during the next
Legislative Session.

Upon passage of the Sunset Bills, state agencies that have been under
review will either be continued, modified, or restructured.

The Sunset Review Process

Timeline

September 2025	Agencies under review submit self-evaluation reports to the Sunset Commission. Sunset posts these reports on its website.
September 2025 to January 2027	Sunset staff evaluates each agency and publishes a staff report with recommendations to the Sunset Commission. Public input provided to staff before the report is published is confidential. Sunset posts the staff reports on its website. The Sunset Commission holds a public hearing and a decision meeting on each staff report and agency. Sunset posts written public comments and testimony and updated staff reports with commission decisions on its website.
February 2027	The Sunset Commission submits a summary report to the Texas Legislature with its recommendations for changes to every agency under review. Sunset posts this report on its website.
January to June 2027	The Legislature considers Sunset bills for agencies under review. Each agency's bill contains the Sunset Commission's statutory recommendations for that agency. After session, Sunset publishes a report with the final outcomes for every agency under review and posts the report on its website.

State of Texas Current Early Childhood Governance Structure



Health and Human Services Commission

- Child Care Regulations
- Family Support Services
- 211
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Texas Thriving Families
- Medicaid & CHIP
- SNAP



Department of Family and Protective Services

- Child Abuse and Neglect Statewide Intake
- Foster Care
- Kinship Care



Department of State Health Services

- Maternal & Child Health
- Help Me Grow



Texas Workforce Commission

- Child Care Services
 - Child Care Subsidies
 - Texas Rising Star (QRIS)



Department of Agriculture

- CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program)



Texas Education Agency

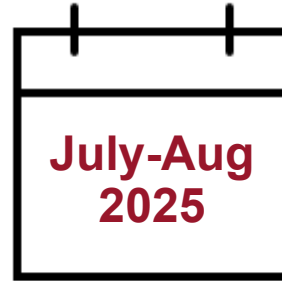
- Pre-K
- Special Education Services

16
state agencies
are under
review.

Texas PN-3 Collaborative is focusing is on the following:

- Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Department of State Health Services
- Department of Family and Protective Services

Community Engagement Timeline



Identify and prioritize agencies

Identify community networks and key stakeholders

Meet with agency staff

Draft questions for survey/focus groups/input/feedback

Identify data to be shared or gathered with Sunset staff and communities

Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data/information

Prepare and provide testimony and public comments

Continue to communicate with stakeholders and communities

Continue to engage sunset staff

Develop and provide recommendations

Your Voice was
Heard...

Texas PN-3 Collaborative's Sunset Workgroup:

- **AVANCE**
- **CHILDREN AT RISK**
- **Every Texan**
- **Feeding Texas**
- **Texans Care for Children**
- **Texas Pediatric Society**
- **TexProtects**
- **United Way of Texas**



FAMILY FINANCIAL SECURITY

Ashley R. Harris, UWTX



FAMILY FINANCIAL SECURITY

- Family financial security is central to Texas' long-term economic strength.
- When families have stable employment, are able to grow earnings, and have access to essential supports, children thrive and communities prosper.
- Workforce, education, and human services programs operate under different funding streams, eligibility rules, and performance measures.
- Misaligned requirements can create service gaps, duplicative paperwork, and instability for families pursuing education or training.



FAMILY FINANCIAL SECURITY

- Standardize program quality across all TWC education and training providers (WIOA, AEL, HSE, apprenticeships, internships, etc.).
- Set clear goals and measures in the state workforce plan to improve access and outcomes for low-income and underserved Texans.
- Implement braided funding to align workforce, education, and human services programs for seamless family support.
- Support two-generational approaches across state agencies to improve outcomes and efficiency for individuals and families.
- Establish an Opportunity Youth Advisory Subcommittee (16–24, disconnected) with agency leaders, youth/parent representatives, and gubernatorial appointments.
- Create a Youth Disconnection Ombudsman at TWC to coordinate statewide strategy, collaborate with agencies, and report annually to the Legislature.



FAMILY FINANCIAL SECURITY

SNAP E&T

- Direct HHSC (with TWC & THECB) to identify postsecondary programs “equivalent to SNAP E&T,” ensuring students in “credentials of value” have coursework recognized for SNAP work requirements and supporting completion and self-sufficiency.
- Direct TWC & HHSC to create standardized contracts and reimbursement models for third-party SNAP E&T providers across all local workforce boards, scaling partnerships with a focus on community colleges and credential-based programs.
- Require HHSC to align SNAP E&T requirements with the federal baseline (20 hrs/week; 80 hrs/month) to simplify compliance and support consistent program engagement.
- Develop a statewide SNAP E&T provider dashboard to track enrollment, completion, job placement, and retention metrics.



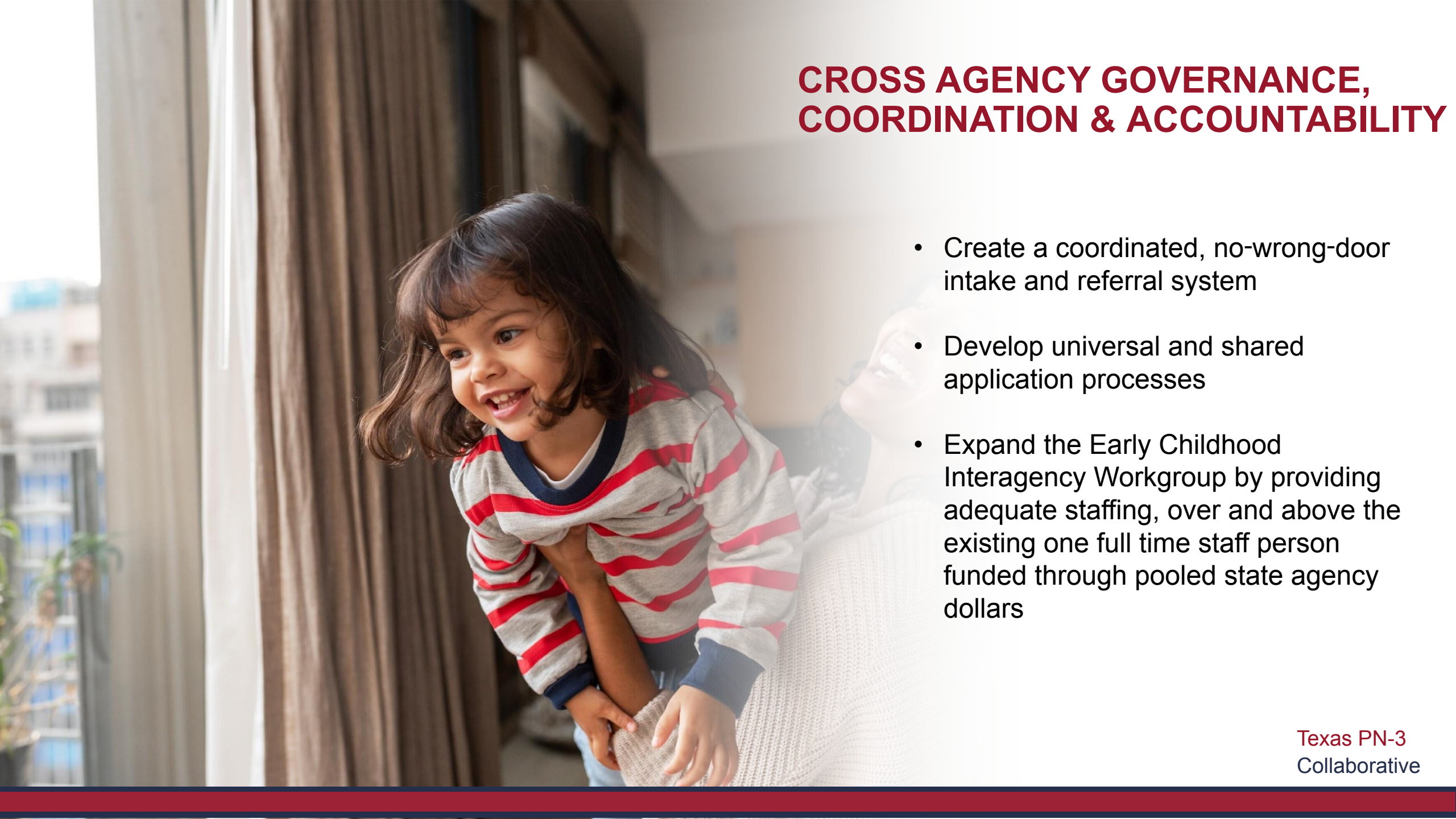
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & CONNECTING TO RESOURCES

Kerrie Judice, TexProtects
Ashley Harris, UWTX
Diane Forester, Texans Care
for Children

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND CONNECTING THEM TO RESOURCES

- All families need help from time to time
- Connection to resources during a time of need is critical
- Texas has many different ways to connect families but they aren't comprehensive, aren't connected to each other, and sometimes are even duplicative leading to confusion for families.





CROSS AGENCY GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Create a coordinated, no-wrong-door intake and referral system
- Develop universal and shared application processes
- Expand the Early Childhood Interagency Workgroup by providing adequate staffing, over and above the existing one full time staff person funded through pooled state agency dollars

ELIGIBILITY, INTAKE, & TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

- Modernize and strengthen Texas' eligibility technology systems
- Improve customer experience in eligibility systems
- Improve clarity and usability of forms and notices



INFORMATION, REFERRAL, & FRONT-DOOR INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improve interconnectivity among community-based connectors
- Modernize and better leverage 2-1-1 Texas as a statewide connector
- Expand access to Family Resource Centers (FRCs)
- Strengthen and sustain Kinship Navigator programs
- Align and relocate Help Me Grow oversight to HHSC
- Transition the DFPS Parent and Youth Helpline to HHSC



FAMILY SUPPORTS, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Elevate children's mental health coordination within HHSC



SNAP & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

- Streamline SNAP eligibility reviews through periodic reporting
- Eliminate full-family sanctions in SNAP



MEDICAID & CHIP ACCESS

- Strengthen the 2-1-1 Option 2 Medicaid call system
- Prioritize implementation of federal CHIP eligibility changes
- Align Medicaid and CHIP by adopting 60-day retroactive coverage for children





ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE

Kim Kofron, CHILDREN AT RISK

ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE

2.3 million children under 6 live in Texas

1 in 10 children younger than 6 with low-income, working parents live in a Child Care Desert.



Governance and Systemwide Coordination

Design a purposeful unified governance with system wide coordination to improve efficiency and quality

- Identify a person/entity/agency with decision-making authority over ALL the programs that impact child care and development services (HHSC/TWC/DFPS/DSHS) to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the system.





Application and Access Streamlining

Streamline and modernize child care systems to improve access, efficiency, and transparency for families and providers, enabling the state to serve more families with existing resources.

- Create a coordinated intake and referral system across TWC, HHSC, and other relevant agencies so that families can access multiple programs (workforce, human services, and education) through a single-entry point. This cost-saving recommendation will reduce duplication of resources and ensure that families are connected to all services for which they are eligible.
- Create a common application form for providers to access programs in TWC & HHSC
- Develop parent-facing portals, either standalone or integrated into the existing child care availability portal, to provide real-time information on scholarship availability, eligibility, waitlists, and application processing times through a transparent public dashboard.

Regulatory and Implementation Alignment

Synthesize key regulations to reduce confusion and improve regulatory alignment

- Require coordinated, agency-wide training across all regions of the state for relevant agencies and programs on child care minimum standards and Texas Rising Star (TRS) standards, including their interpretation and application.
- Ensure that all TWC TRS mentors and HHSC Child Care Regulation staff receive comprehensive training to provide consistent guidance and strengthen alignment between TRS standards and state licensing requirements.



Efficiency

Improve efficiency by reviewing Local Workforce Development Board service areas to better align resources with today's population, community needs and economic realities.

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the current LWDB service areas to ensure a balanced and strategic distribution of resources aligned with today's population patterns, community needs, and economic realities, and community realities.

Texas PN-3
Collaborative





Contracting Accountability and Performance Management

Improve oversight of contracted services to ensure quality performance

- Develop a system to ensure coordination among LWDB Contractors so that programs are delivered uniformly statewide.
- Conduct a comprehensive audit of the effectiveness of how TWC uses CCDBG funds, particularly quality initiatives and infant/toddler quality initiatives, while developing and auditing user-friendly technology systems, including parent-facing portals and the CCS platform (TX3C/KinderConnect).

Access for Children with Disabilities

Improve access to child care services for families of children with disabilities

- Increase use of differential rates for children with special needs by expanding the eligible factors that earn the enhanced rate and simplifying the application process to make it easier for providers to secure the enhanced rate.
- Create an inclusion badge to recognize programs that go above and beyond in serving children with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. Establish and administer a grant program for providers who earn these optional certifications.
- Promote and provide deeper guidance on establishing pre-k partnerships for supporting children with disabilities.

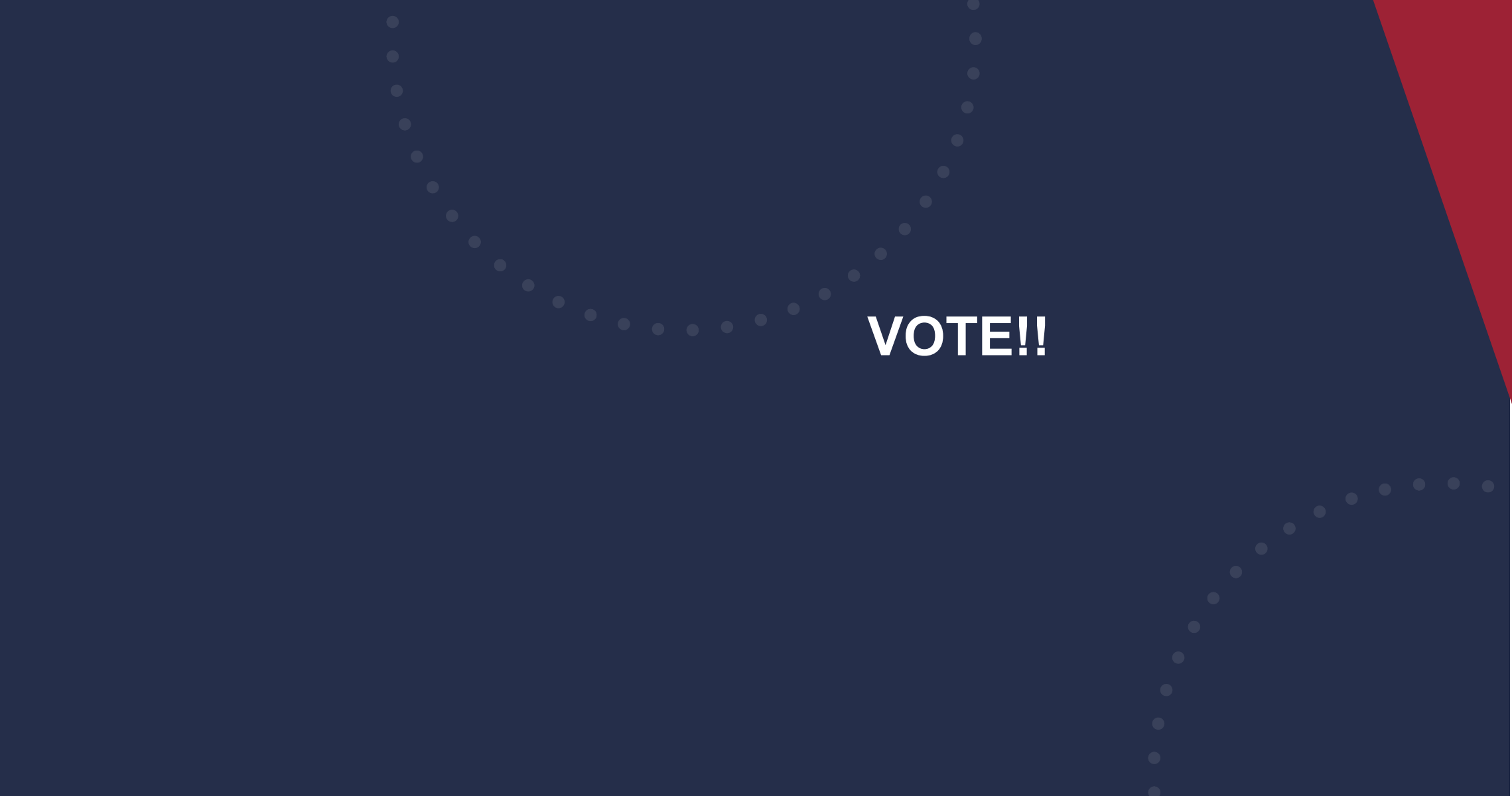


STAY UP
TO DATE!



Explore Texas PN-3 Collaborative's recommendations for the Texas Sunset Commission

AGENCY	CONTACT	E-MAIL
	Kim Kofron <i>Executive Director Early Childhood Education</i>	kkofron@childrenatrisk.org
	Kerrie Judice <i>Director of Policy and Advocacy</i>	kerrie@texprotects.org
	Diana Forester <i>Director of Health Policy</i>	dforester@txchildren.org



VOTE!!



THANK YOU!

Texas PN-3 Collaborative

children
atRisk

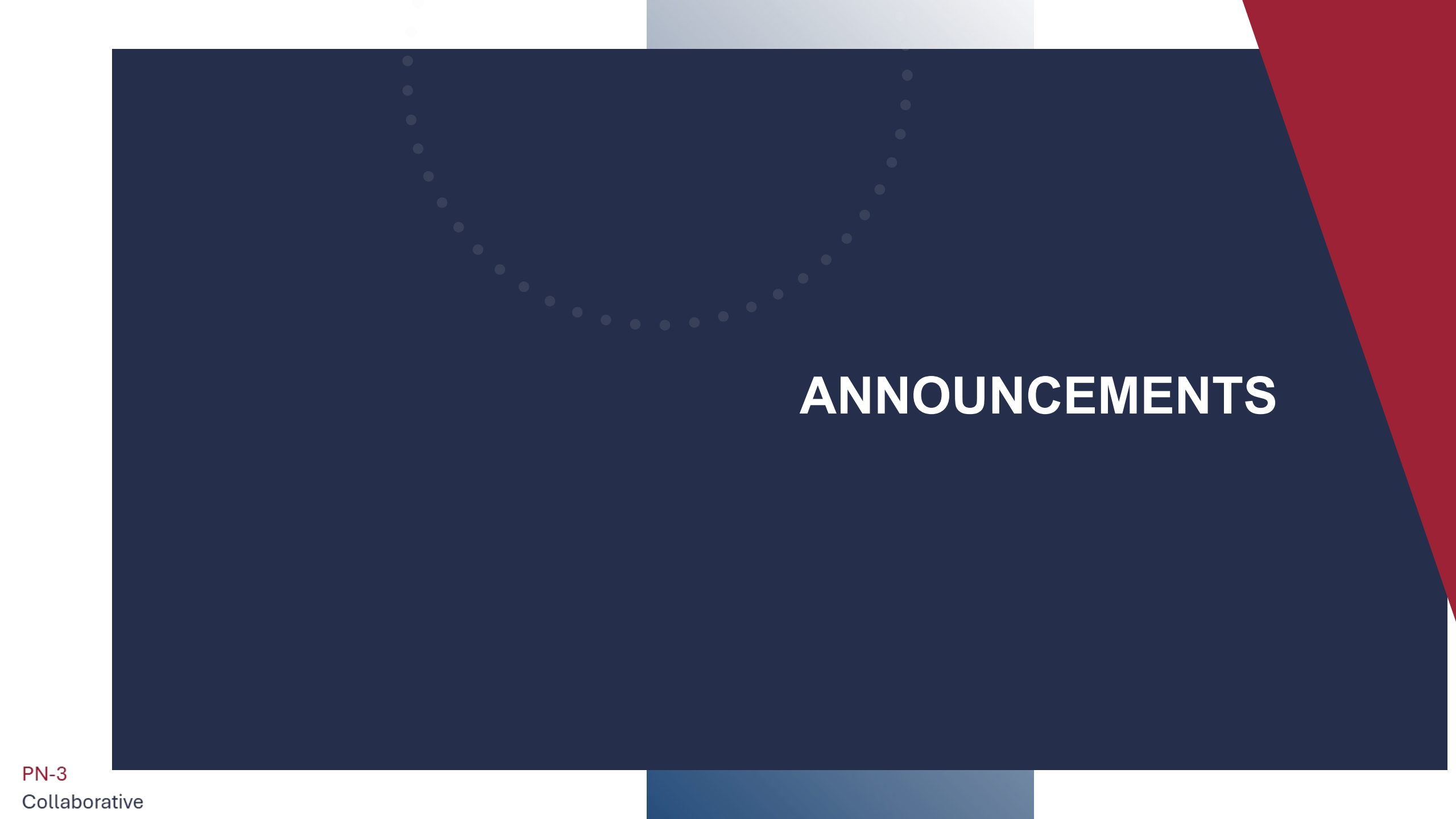
20TH ANNIVERSARY
TexProtects



TEXANS CARE
for CHILDREN



TITLE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TITLE

;LASLKDJ;AKLDJSF
SAKLDF;ALKDJF;LASJDF
SDF;LK JDF;AKD
FJA'L