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Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2026
***In-Person & Zoom* 5:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT		**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**	
Dytrun Thirkill	In Person	James Jesse	In Person
Esmeralda Sosa Serratos	Zoom	Deborah Wesson	In Person
Cassy Burleson	Zoom	John Goray	In Person
Susan Copeland	In Person	Kanisha Johnson	In Person
Nathesia White	In Person	Carla De La Hoya	In Person
Amy Rossow	In Person	Susan Wilson	In Person
James Lee (dismissed 6:00PM)	Zoom	Patrick Turkett	In Person
Heaven Lee	In Person		In Person
Tiffany Gallegos Whitley	In Person		
Isabel Lozano	In Person		
Ashley Thornton	In Person		

MEMBERS ABSENT	**STAFF MEMBERS**	**ABSENT**
Elizabeth Nelson	None	
Renee Rains	**Visitor**	
	None	

Call Meeting to Order
Mr. Thirkill called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Establish a Quorum
A quorum was established.

Ordering of the Agenda
No change.

Mission Statement
Mission Statement read by Mr. Thirkill.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Consent Agenda
1 6.22.2026 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
2 6.22.2026 Governing Board Meeting Minutes
3 7.20.2026 Governing Board Special Call Meeting Minutes
4 Cole Law Firm Engagement Letter
5 EOAC Board Member Attendance
6 EOAC Board Training Schedule
7 ADP HR Services Agreement
8 CSBG Contract Amendment

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9 DOE Contract Amendment (Extension)
10 Head Start Governance Policy
11 Head Start Information Memorandum – Enrollment Reductions
12 Strategic Plan Review Report Schedule
13 EOAC Risk Assessment 2026 (Organizational Standard 4.6)
14 Cost Allocation Plan (Organizational Standard 8.12)
15 No Rate Change De Minimus Rate at 15% (Organizational Standard 8.12)

Motion by Dr. White to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Copeland. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve and Seat Tiffany Gallegos Whitley on the EOAC Board of Directors
The seating of Ms. Tiffany Gallegos Whitley to the EOAC Board of Directors, was presented for approval following her initial nomination on June 22, 2026. Ms. Gallego Whitley will represent Group B (Low-Income).

Motion made by Ms. Rossow to approve and seat Tiffany Gallegos Whitley on the EOAC Board. Motion seconded by Ms. Copeland. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve and Seat Isabel Lozano on the EOAC Board of Directors
The seating of Ms. Isabel Lozano to the EOAC Board of Directors was presented for approval following her initial nomination on June 22, 2026. Ms. Lozano will represent Group A (Public Sector).

Motion made by Dr. White to approve and seat Isabel Lozano on the EOAC Board. Motion seconded by Ms. Rossow. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve and Seat Ashley Bean Thornton on the EOAC Board of Directors
The seating of Ms. Ashley Bean Thornton to the EOAC Board of Directors was presented for approval following her initial nomination on June 22, 2026. Ms. Thornton will represent Group C (Private Sector).

Motion made by Ms. Copeland to approve and seat Ashley Bean Thornton on the EOAC Board. Motion seconded by Dr. Burleson. All in favor, motion carried.

Administer Oath of Office to Tiffany Gallegos Whitley, Isabel Lozano and Ashley Bean Thornton
EOAC Oath of Office was administered to Tiffany Gallegos Whitley, Isabel Lozano and Ashley Bean Thornton by Dytrun Thirkill, President of EOAC Board.

Motion made by Dr. White to approve the administration of the Oath of Office to Tiffany Gallegos Whitley, Isabel Lozano and Ashley Bean Thornton. Motion seconded by Ms. Copeland. All In favor motion carried.

Accept the nomination of Jonathan Olvera to EOAC Board of Directors
Mr. Thirkill recommended the nomination of Jonathan Olvera to the EOAC Board, representing Group A (Public Sector).

Motion made by Ms. Rossow to accept the nomination of Jonathan Olvera to EOAC Board of Directors. Motion seconded by Ms. Gallegos Whitley. All in favor motion carried.

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Accept the resignation of EOAC Board Member Charles Eaton

Mr. Thirkill presented the formal resignation of board member Charles Eaton. Mr. Thirkill requested official approval from the Board to accept the resignation.

Motion made by Ms. Copeland to accept the resignation of Charles Eaton. Motion seconded by Dr. White. All in favor motion carried.

Accept the appointment of Susan Copeland by US Representative Pete Sessions to the EOAC Board of Directors

President, Dytrun Thirkill requested the approval of the appointment Susan Copeland by US Representative Pete Sessions. Mr. Thirkill noted that currently elected official Judge Felton will be retiring.

Motion made by Ms. Rossow to accept the appointment of Susan Copeland by US Representative Pete Sessions to the EOAC Board Directors. Motion seconded by Ms. Thornton. All in favor motion carried.

Report – Executive Director

Mr. Jesse presented the Executive Director Report.

Key Updates:

- Organizational Highlights
- Staffing Updates
- Program Developments
- Funding Efforts
- Compliance Matters
- Community Engagement

Approve EOAC Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (Organizational Standard 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, & 6.4)

Mr. Jesse presented the EOAC Strategic Plan 2026-2029 for approval.

Motion made by Ms. Gallegos Whitley to approve the EOAC Strategic Plan 2026-2029 as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Copeland. All in favor motion carried.

Approve Monthly Financial Report (Organizational Standard 8.7)

Ms. De La Hoya presented the June and July 2026 financial report.

June:
Expenditure Activities: $ 1,590,626
Agency Indirect Earned $ 113,979
Unrestricted Cash: $ 1,486,671

July:
Expenditure Activities: $ 1,343,284
Agency Indirect Earned $ 109,675
Unrestricted Cash: $ 1,598,622

Motion made by Dr. White to approve the Monthly Financial Report as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Gallegos Whitley. All in favor, motion carried.

Report – EOAC 990 Filing FY 2024 (Organization Standard 8.6)

Ms. De La Hoya presented 990 filing submitted by Armstrong, Backus & Co.

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Approve EOAC Agency Wide Budget (Organizational Standard 8.9)
Ms. De La Hoya presented the agency wide budget for approval, noting a 1% COLA ($68,431) increase.

Motion made by Ms. Copeland to approve the EOAC Agency Wide Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Rossow. All in favor motion carried.

Approve Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) 2027 Budget
Ms. De La Hoya presented the Community Services Block Grant 2027 Budget for approval.

Motion made by Ms. Thornton to approve the Community Services Block Grant 2027 Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Lee. All in favor motion carried.

Report - Community Services Monthly Report (Organizational Standard 5.9)
Ms. Johnson reported on Community Programs
Key Updates:

- Energy Assistance.
- Home Weatherization.
- CSBG Emergency Services and EmpowerU Case Management
- Professional Development

Report - Community Action Plan 2026 Annual Update (Organizational Standard 4.4)
Ms. Johnson reported on the Community Action Plan Update 2026.
Key Updates:

- Jobs and Living Wage Opportunities
- Affordable Housing
- Poverty Support Services
- Upcoming strategies

Approve the Community Action Plan 2027 (Organizational Standard 4.2)
Ms. Johnson presented the Community Action Plan 2027 for approval.

Motion made by Dr. White to approve the Community Action Plan 2027 as presented. Motion seconded by Ms. Rossow. All in favor motion carried.

Report – EOAC Impact Story
Ms. Johnson presented the EOAC Impact Story.

Report - Head Start Director's Monthly Report
Ms. Wilson presented the Head Start Director's monthly report.
Key Updates:

- Enrollment: EOAC successfully met the Head Start enrollment requirement following participation in the Office of Head Start's Under-Enrollment Initatve. Head Start maintained at least 97% enrollment for six consecutive months.
- Brazos Expansion: Brazos Head Start received its updated childcare license, reflecting the addition of two Head Start classrooms and one Early Head Start classroom.
- Prenatal Slot Conversion: OHS approved EOAC's request to convert six Early Head Start prenatal slots to six center-based infant/toddler slots, expanding infant and toddler services at Brazos.

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- Mental Health Services: EOAC expanded mental health support through its partnership with HOTBHN, including the addition of a Mental Health Consultant to provide classroom consultation, staff coaching, family support, and training. The addition of four contracted behavior support staff is in process.
- OHS Training and Technical Assistance: EOAC is working with the Office of Head Start Training and Technical Assistance team to strengthen health and safety practices, ongoing monitoring, staff training, and implementation of the program's Corrective Action Plan.
- Site Leadership: Leadership staffing update.

Approve FY2025 Non-Federal Match Waiver Request

Ms. Wilson requested approval to submit a request to the Office of Head Start to waive a shortfall in EOAC's FY2025 Non-Federal Match requirement.

Motion made by Ms. Copeland to approve the Non-Federal Match Waiver Request FY2025. Motion seconded by Ms. White. All in favor motion carried.

Report – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs

Ms. Wilson outlined the background information and discussed its potential implications.

Report – Advancement

Mr. Turkett presented the Advancement Report.
Key Updates:
• Marketing & Communication
• Public Relations & Fundraising

Discussion - Personnel

No Discussion

Executive Session

Entered executive session at 6:40 PM under Texas Government Code Section 551.074.
Reconvened into open session at 7:00 PM.

Action – Personnel

None

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Dr. White to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Thornton. All in favor motion carried. Mr. Thirkill adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Signed by:
Dytrun Thirkill
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9/3/2026

Dytrun Thirkill, Board President **Date**