

From: TCWF texaschildwelfarefundere@203675254.mailchimpapp.com
Subject: Save the date! Commissioner O'Neill Joins Upcoming Webinar to Discuss Budget Shifts
Date: December 2, 2025 at 10:01 AM
To: texaschildwelfarefundere@gmail.com



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Texas Child Welfare Funders



Register Now!

From Policy to Partnership: How Funders Can Respond to DFPS Budget Shifts

**January 21, 2026
10 - 11 AM**

Register now for an in-depth conversation with **DFPS Commissioner O'Neill** and policy leaders from the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services as they discuss the implications of the upcoming Texas biennium budget for children and families. Hear directly about agency priorities, funding shifts, and the most urgent needs on the horizon. We'll also explore how philanthropy can meaningfully align with state strategies to fill critical gaps and strengthen outcomes for the communities we serve.

[Register](#)

You will need to create a username and password to register, but you do not need to be a member of Philanthropy Southwest.

Commissioner Audrey O'Neill



Governor Greg Abbott appointed Audrey O'Neill as Commissioner of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) on September 17, 2025.

Prior to being named Commissioner, Audrey held the role of Acting Commissioner from August 1, 2025 to Sept. 17, 2025. Previously, she served as Deputy Commissioner of Programs, overseeing Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, Child Protective Investigations, and Statewide Intake.

Audrey joined DFPS in May 2023 as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner, providing strategic oversight and direction to ensure DFPS compliance with federal foster care litigation requirements and to further strengthen key DFPS programs and processes.

Before joining DFPS, Audrey was the Principal Deputy Inspector General and the Chief of Audits and Inspections for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Office of Inspector General (OIG). She provided strategic, agency-wide leadership and oversaw OIG's Fraud Analytics and Data Operations Division, the Audit and Inspections Division, and the Data Reviews Division. Audrey spent the first 15 years of her career in state government with the State Auditor's Office, where she was an Audit Manager and oversaw a variety of complex audits and investigations across state government.

Audrey received her bachelor's degree in political science from Southwestern University and is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, and Certified Fraud Examiner.

Audrey is deeply passionate about the mission of DFPS. As a former foster parent and a kinship parent, she believes strongly in helping children, adults, and families be successful together.

Katy Bourgeois

Vice President of Systems
Advancement



Kristene Blackstone

Chief Operating Officer



Rachel Walters

Vice President of Advocacy



Katy, Kristene, and Rachel from the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services will join the conversation. Learn from their policy expertise.

Steering Committee

Kristy Robinson, Vice President (Trustee and Program Officer, The Hogle Foundation)

Shellie Velasco, Finance Chair (Program Officer, The Rees-Jones Foundation)

Amanda Finney, Membership & Development (Senior Program Officer, Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation)

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Katherine (Kat) Pipoly, Member-at-Large (Chief Impact Officer, Kronkosky Charitable Foundation)

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Michael Martinez, Advisor (Senior Director, Casey Family Programs)

Please contact one of the members listed above to discuss joining the TCWF Steering Committee.

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