

In August 2013, TFC executed Assignment No. 3 to its IDIQ contract with professional services provider, Steinbomer, Bramwell & Vrazel, Architects to perform A/E services to review and confirm the scope of work and budget related to certain exterior repairs proposed to the Capitol Complex Child Care Center. A notice to proceed was issued in October 2013. In March 2014, TFC amended this Assignment to include A/E services associated with the performance of internal and exterior repairs and renovation of the Capitol Complex Child Care Center. A proposed project schedule anticipated final completion on or before the end of 2014 with no interruption of child care services at the Center.

Upon receipt of the preliminary design drawings last month, TFC invited members of the Child Care Advisory Committee to attend a presentation by the A/E. Five members attended the presentation and commented on the project. In addition, Committee members voiced concerns about the safety of the children enrolled at the Center and the operator's employees during the proposed project. After considering the feedback from the Committee members and all available options, the Executive Director determined the most reasonable course of action was to delay actual work at the facility until the summer months of 2015 and to temporarily suspend operation of the Center while the work is accomplished.

Despite the most recent major renovation of the Center occurring in 1992, the Center is currently in compliance with all applicable regulations. The facility, however, requires upgrades to all major building systems, which will now be fully addressed during the course of the project. In addition, a fire sprinkler system will be installed in the south building of the Center. This proposed work will enhance the facility's suitability for its current use and enable the Commission to meet its duty to provide child care services under the State Child Care Program over the next decade.

TFC has advised state leadership and members of the Austin legislative delegation of its plans regarding the Capitol Complex Child Care Center. Parents of children currently enrolled in the Center will be notified in writing before the end of this month of the Commission's plans to suspend operations temporarily next year. Moreover, the current operator will further be directed to inform families currently on the Center's waiting list and any new families requesting information of the planned closure to enhance and upgrade the Center. The construction services provider will be required to have all preliminary work completed so work on the facility will begin on June 1, 2015. The Commission intends to advertise its solicitation seeking a child care service provider for the Center concurrently with the project. The Commission's objective is to re-open the Center for operation in an enhanced facility with a quality service provider on September 1, 2015.