## Southern Region Update

Lorrie Coop (TX), Southern Region Director

Greetings from the Southern Region!

Spring is in the air and the warmer weather is sure welcome after the recent winter storms that affected so many in February. Several members have taken advantage of some great opportunities for professional development, such as the JCEP ELC. This was my first time to attend, and I can definitely say it won't be the last. I attended some fabulous sessions and really enjoyed networking with others. I also enjoyed assisting with our association meeting as part of the



conference and brainstorming with members about what they feel are important issues. It was truly a great experience and I encourage you all to make plans to attend in 2022.

Our affiliates are reporting exciting things happening as well. Thanks to the following member for providing an update.

## Liz Espie-Texas

TEAFCS is excited to host our Spring Board meeting in May and continue to plan for our State Conference in July!

Even as the state opens, we are continuing to host virtual programming. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is offering our first-ever series of monthly statewide virtual conferences to provide continuing education for early childhood educators (a.k.a. childcare providers, preschool teachers, etc.). This program is being led by a steering committee comprised of a Family and Community Health (FCH) Agent representing each Extension District, as well as the FCH Regional Program Leaders and the FCH Early Childhood Health & Safety Specialist, with the intent to bring high-quality training to professionals across the state who care for our youngest, most vulnerable Texans.