

## Childhood Cancer Committee

Feb. 5, 2026 | Meeting Summary

The Feb. 5 Childhood Cancer Committee meeting offered a comprehensive overview of the rapidly advancing plans for Kinder Children’s Cancer Center, beginning with opening remarks from committee chair, Linda Mays McCaul, celebrating the long-awaited progress of the UT MD Anderson–Texas Children’s Hospital joint venture and noting recent related legislative success. Leadership reported that clinical integration is scheduled for mid-April 2026, with operational workstreams addressing electronic medical record migration, chemotherapy protocol alignment, credentialing of providers, trainee coordination and a -April 2026, with operational workstreams addressing electronic medical record migration, chemotherapy protocol alignment, credentialing of providers, trainee coordination and a command structure to ensure patient safety during the transition. Updates from pediatrics highlighted notable accomplishments from the prior year, including major grants, -center structure to ensure patient safety during the transition. Updates from pediatrics highlighted notable accomplishments from the prior year, including major grants, high-impact publications, growth in clinical trials — especially MD Anderson exclusive-exclusive therapeutic trials. Planning for the new Kinder facility is well underway and progressing through design phases toward an anticipated first patient-patient date in 2031. Progress was noted in defining joint venture governance, including a board comprised of leads from both UT MD Anderson — Dr. Peter Pisters, Allyson Kinzel, Rosanna Morris, Chris McKee and Omer Sultan — as well as Texas Children’s — Dr. Debra Sukin, Afsheen Davis, Matthew Giroto, Jacqueline Ward and Weldon Gage. Also discussed were academic and research integration considerations between UT MD Anderson, Texas Children’s and Baylor College of Medicine, as well as the plan to launch a search for a joint venture physician executive and executive administrator in March. On the philanthropy front, nearly \$160 million has been raised to date, and the joint venture is employing a unified fundraising strategy between the two institutions and cultivating prospective “founding members” to join in lead transformative support for the pediatric purpose-built facility. Committee members engaged with leadership on topics such as branding strategy, donor efficiency compared to peer organizations, access for uninsured or under-resourced families through Texas Children’s health plan and the long-term vision for ensuring national reach and equitable care. The meeting concluded with appreciation for the committee's dedication and enthusiasm for the monumental progress toward establishing a world-class, globally impactful pediatric cancer center.