



CHILD CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78207
November 16, 2020
9:00AM

WSA BOARD MEMBERS: DOUG WATSON, CHAIR; BETTY MUNOZ, (9:02AM); JUAN SOLIS, III; ERIC COOPER, (9:03AM); DR. SARAH BARAY, (9:03AM.); DR. HENRIETTA MUNOZ, (9:05AM); KATHERINE FILUT, (9:03AM); ANA DE HOYOS-O'CONNOR; KRISTI KOTHE, (9:03AM)

WSA STAFF: ADRIAN LOPEZ, MARK MILTON, JESSICA VILLARREAL, LINDA G. MARTINEZ, TEMA COTE, ELIZABETH EBERHARDT, TERESA CHAVEZ, RICARDO RAMIREZ, ANGELA BUSH, JOSHUA VILLELA, LINDA CANIZALES, MELISSA SADLER-NITU, LAVONIA HORNE-WILLIAMS, AARON SMITH

LEGAL COUNSEL:

PARTNERS: RUBEN DAVILA AND POOJA TRIPATHI, (9:27AM)

GUESTS: ALLISON WILSON, CHILD CARE PROGRAM POLICY & INITIATIVES MANAGER

AGENDA

Agenda items may not be considered in the order they appear.

Citizens may appear before the Committee to speak for or against any item on the Agenda in accordance with procedural rules governing meetings. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes on each topic (6 minutes if translation is needed) if they register at the beginning of meeting. Questions relating to these rules may be directed to Linda G. Martinez at (210) 581-1093.

To protect the health of the public and limit the potential spread of COVID 19 as directed by Governor of Texas, Bexar County and City of San Antonio, WSA will hold this meeting via videoconferencing. The meeting will be held in compliance with the suspended provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. For those members of the public that would like to participate,

please call toll-free 1-877-858-6860, which will provide two-way communications through a speaker phone. For additional information, please call Linda G. Martinez, (210) 581-1093.

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During the Public Comments portion of the meeting (Agenda Item 3), the Public may type their name into the chat box or unmute themselves and state their name.

The meeting host will call each member of the public for comments, in the order their names were submitted.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

Call to Order and Quorum Determination

At 9:05 a.m., Chair Watson called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

The roll was called, and a quorum was declared present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

No Public Comment

IV. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

No declarations of conflict of interest.

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V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

- **Upon motion by Director Eric Cooper and second by Ana DeHoyos O’Conner the Board unanimously approved the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes.**

VI. STATEWIDE CHILD CARE CHANGES & CONTRACTED SLOTS

Presenter: Allison Wilson, Child Care Program Policy & Initiatives Manager

- Ms. Allison Wilson, Child Care Program Policy and Quality Initiatives Manager, for TWC briefed the WSA Child Care Committee (WSACCC) on statewide childcare changes on the horizon.
 - o Pre-Star Designation
 - New Child Care Rule
 - CCS providers meet Pre-Star Checklist
 - Continuum of Quality
 - Impacts
 - XX% currently meet Pre-Star Checklist
 - No impact to current Texas Rising Star certified programs
 - Supports and Resources
 - Automated
 - Local flexibility for mentor and CQIP support
 - Future supports to be determined
 - o Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP)
 - Collaborative process
 - Working document
 - Created electronically within Engage
 - Program level CQIP required
 - Documented step by step Action Plan
 - o Weighting and Categorical Changes
 - Removal of Category
 - Re-weighting for Overall Star Level
 - Category 1 = 20%
 - Category 2 = 40%
 - Category 3 = 20%
 - Category 4 = 20%
 - o Texas Rising Star Staff Requirements
 - Requirements:
 - Training Course – required for both mentors and assessors

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- Certification Course – required for assessors
- Reliability Checks – required for assessors
- PLCs – available for both mentors and assessor
- Mentor Micro-credential – required for mentors
- Statewide Training in January 2021
- Centralizing Assessors
- Timeline:
 - October 2020, Commission approval of draft rules
 - October – November 2020, Public comment period on draft rules (ends 11/23)
 - January 2021, Commission action to adopt final rules
 - January – March 2021
 - Assessment freeze
 - TRS staff training on revisions
 - Certification of Assessors
 - April 2021, Rolling implementation of revisions
 - Assessment freeze ends
 - Programs are assessed under revised Guidelines on a rolling basis
- The WSA Child Care Committee expressed interest in contracted slots at the last Committee meeting. Ms. Wilson will expand on these proposed changes to TWC Rules.
- Contracted slots align with WSA Child Care Committee Guidelines because they have the potential to support TRS providers financially and expand access to quality childcare in our region.
- WSA plans to explore the possibility of implementing contracted slots if included in the final TWC Rule changes.
- The WSA Child Care Committee will evaluate available options and strategies after the TWC briefing and further discussion.
- WSA staff will develop a preliminary plan based on WSA Child Care Committee input and guidance.
- With WSA Child Care Committee approval, WSA staff will notify TWC of intention to implement contracted slots by the November 20, 2020 deadline and provide updates on progress and strategies.
- Mr. Solis asked if the location was factored into any of the data collection information. There is no incentive to encourage placing a five-star childcare center in an area that is poverty stricken.
- Ms. Wilson stated the workgroup was heavily focused on programs that are not participating in Texas Rising Star at all. The top priority was to move programs up

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the chain and setting goals around programs. She also urged the Childcare Committee to stay abreast of the state plan and offer feedback throughout the process.

- Chair Watson and the Child Care Committee agreed to have WSA staff submit to TWC the intention to implement contracted slots by the November 20, 2020 deadline and provide updates on progress and strategies.

VII. UPDATE CHILD CARE QUALITY CONTRACT (CCQ) RFP (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: LaVonia Horne-Williams, Procurement Director

- The RFP was issued on Friday, November 06. The required return date is November 13th and our Pre-proposal meeting will be scheduled for November 19th at 2:30 PM. Central standard time.
- We will be accepting written questions for the RFP. through November 23rd at 4:00PM, We will be providing responses within 1 to 2 days prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The submission deadline for the RFP will be December 15th. at 5:00PM.
- Procurement received great feedback from the Committee. We made all of those updates and changes. The current RFP is published and available on our website for anyone to review.
- Mr. Juan Solis asked, what was the total number of bidders that were reached?
- Ms. LaVonia Horne-Williams stated it was sent out to 73 bidders on Procurement's list of bidders. It was also published on the Texas Comptroller's website.

VIII. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Child Care Services Director

- a) TRS Stipend Plan to Expense \$258K Funding by Dec. 31, 2020
 - o Providers must complete Business Accelerator Course
 - o Funds must be applied to business expenses
 - o Providers must sign MOU
 - o One-year probation for providers that don't comply with MOU
 - o 31 providers were awarded stipends that met specific requirements.
 - o Awarded amounts ranged from \$3K to \$18K

Upon motion by Director Eric Cooper and second by Director Juan Solis the Child Care Committee unanimously approved to issue stipends to designated providers based on eligibility criteria and WSA will ensure providers comply with the conditions of the MOU.

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b) TRS Discount

- Child Care Services (CCS) parents must pay a parent share of cost (PSOC) based on income.
- This will be a financial incentive for parents and the children will reap the short-term and long-term benefits of being enrolled at a TRS provider.
- There has been a significant increase in TRS enrollments over the last two program years. This was accomplished by increasing parent awareness and an increase in TRS providers in our region.
- The TRS discount will be an added incentive and it can be used to create more awareness. This change may also encourage more CCS providers to become TRS certified.
- At this time the budget will only allow for a 10% discount.
- Ana DeHoyos O'Connor asked how we are educating our parents regarding quality care in Texas Rising Star?
- Tony Martinez, Child Care Manager replied, we have large TRS posters that we've developed and placed in every career center. We continue to provide reminders and as a result we have increased the number of children in TRS.

Upon motion by Director Eric Cooper and second by Director Betty Munoz, the Child Care Committee unanimously approved the Parent Share of Cost (PSOC) of 10%.

c) Child Care Quality Budget Briefing

- TWC extended PY20 funds until 12/31 due to COVID
- After extension, TWC added a stipulation – contractor salaries are not an approved expense. This was unprecedented
- Spend all carryover funds from PY20 (\$322,594), + funds allocated for 1st Quarter PY21 (\$177,209) = \$499,594 and + \$150,000 = \$649,594

Expensing of funding will be accomplished by:

- Implementing 1st Quarter PY21 plans shared at previous meeting
- Purchasing: Social Emotional and Multicultural Resources, STEAM, COVID Kits, Outdoor play resources
- Expediting Dream Proposals planned for after January 2021
- Contingency plans in place

- Chair Watson asked, who are the kits and outdoor play resources going to be allocated to? Are they going to TRS centers or CCS providers?

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- Jessica Villarreal, Child Care Services Director replied, these were originally planned for TRS centers. There is a training scheduled by C2Global STEAM. those were already allocated.
- Ana DeHoyos O'Connor recommended WSA staff provide a brief explanation to the center director(s) and center staff of the item(s) they will receive, why they are receiving this item, how did the teachers interact with children with these items.
- Mr. Juan Solis recommended additional educational training, for example, technology, services using WebEx and/or Zoom and using these funds for those specific resources.

IX. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

- Mr. Lopez provided update on the Texas Mutual Insurance \$75,000 grant
- The Local Plan/Strategic Plan is being developed and will include more information regarding childcare.
- Mr. Lopez also requested Chair Watson or someone from the Child Care Committee drafting an editorial and/or reaching out to the media informing of the creation of the WSA Child Care Committee and showcasing the board members including the advisory board members; the changes in policies that have taken place in a short timeframe; the \$75,000 Texas Mutual Insurance Grant that was awarded; and the \$258,000 investment to childcare in stipends.
- Chair Watson will work with Linda Canizales, Public and Government Relations Coordinator on write-up.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

- No Report

XI. NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session: Pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Committee may recess into Executive Session for discussion on any issue for which there is an exception to the Act as set out in section 551.071 et. seq. including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Government Code §551.072 – Discussions Regarding Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property if Deliberation in an Open Meeting Would Have a Detrimental Effect on the Position of Workforce Solutions Alamo in Negotiations with a third Party;

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- b. Government Code §551.071 - All Matters Where Workforce Solutions Alamo Seeks the Advice of its Attorney as Privileged Communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas:
- c. Pending or Contemplated Litigation; and
- d. Government Code §551.074- Personnel Matters involving Senior Executive Staff and Employees of Workforce Solutions Alamo.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Presenter: Doug Watson, Chair

**Upon motion by Director Eric Cooper and second by Dr. Henrietta Munoz
Child Care Committee unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 1:**

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