



CHILD CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78207
February 18, 2022
9:00AM

WSA BOARD MEMBERS: ANA DEHOYOS O'CONNOR, CHAIR; BETTY MUNOZ, (9:06am); DR. HENRIETTA MUNOZ; KATHERINE PIPOLY, MARK LARSON,(9:11am) ELIZABETH LUTZ; LESLIE CANTU, ESMERALDA PEREZ

WSA STAFF: ADRIAN LOPEZ, JESSICA VILLARREAL, LINDA G. MARTINEZ, DR. ANDREA GUAJARDO, JOSHUA VILLELA, KIMBERLY VILLARREAL, ANGELA BUSH, CRISTINA BAZALDUA, CARLOINE GODDARD

LEGAL COUNSEL: NONE

PARTNERS: NONE

GUESTS: NONE

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) 272-3250.

The Chair of the Committee will be at the Host Location. The Host location is specified above. Meetings will be visible and audible to the public at the Host location, and there will be a visual or audio recording of the meeting. There will be two-way audio and video of the meeting between each Board member sufficient that Board members and public can hear and see them. WSA will comply with all Videoconferencing Guidelines.

For those members of the public that would like to participate and cannot attend in person at the host location, 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) 272-3250.

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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: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

**Call to Order and Quorum Determination At 9:01 a.m., Chair Ana DeHoyos
O'Connor called the meeting to order**

II. ROLL CALL

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

None

IV. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

None

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES OF
NOVEMBER 8, 2021, CHILD CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

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Upon motion by Board member Leslie Cantu and 2nd by Board Member Katherine Pipoly, Board unanimously approved the November 8, 2021, meeting minutes.

VI. BRIEFING (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Child Care Director

Mrs. Jessica Villarreal, Child Care Director provided the below updates.

a. Child Care Performance Briefing

- WSA continues to provide oversight & guidance to Child Care Contractor as they monitor & process enrollments. WSA & Child Care Contractor, maintain ongoing communication on TWC's performance target goal, which outlines a board to meet performance they must maintain enrollment at/or between 95 – 105%.
- Dr. Henrietta Munoz asked WSA collects the assessment benchmarks from centers for children. WSA does not collect individualized assessment from centers are their children.
- Dr. Munoz added when centers conduct age-appropriate benchmarking, it may be data that can be collected to strengthen centers.
- WSA's Performance target for 2021 was set at 9,544. BCY 22 targets for Alamo FY 22 is 9,364. The most recent TWC enrollment report for the month of December, shows Alamo is still high at 108% average enrollment, with Alamo board expending 10,113 Year to Date Average units of care.
- Mrs. O'Connor agreed and added WSA can partner with United Way since they collect this data. Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Villarreal will be meeting with VOICES, which conducts training for the City and County.
- CEO Lopez also added WSA had a conversation with UP Partnership to determine how WSA and this organization strategically aligned.
- Board member Katherine Filut Pipoly stated part of the Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, with all of the childcare development centers partnering with United Way, is collecting this data.
- Chair O'Connor asked Board Member Katherine Filut Pipoly if she would take the lead and re-grouping with others on the Child Care Committee to 1) focus on this and determine what data is already out there and 2) what would be the next steps.

b. Service Industry Recovery (SIR) update

- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) implemented a Service Industry Recovery (SIR) childcare program to address the impacts of COVID-19 and to support Texas' continued economic recovery, to help low-wage workers in TWC-specified service industries who operate in close quarters with their customers and whose jobs cannot be accomplished

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- remotely. While TWC targeted aspects of the service sector with SIR childcare, all families continue to have access to TWC's regular low-income childcare subsidy program.
- Mrs. Villarreal touched on the highlights of the Service Industry Recovery, (SIR): 12 months of eligibility; \$0 parent share of cost; and less required eligibility documentation.
 - TWC's unofficial report for February showed 1,709 children were enrolled. The estimated projections based on continued monthly average enrollment of 244 children. WSA could potentially enroll 2,086 by end of March 2022. This would result in a little more than 50% of the 4,598 goals being met, leaving a remaining amount of funding unused.
 - WSA Board Staff, contractors, and partners have been working rigorously to get the word out. However, many parents elected not to participate in the SIR initiative because they did not want to lose their current slots on the waitlist. A manual tracking of those parents on the waitlist also eligible for SIR, were allowed to enroll in SIR and keep their slots on the waiting list.
 - Board member Mr. Mark Larson asked if WSA was communicating with TWC regarding program design for efficiency and effectiveness. CEO Lopez stated, WSA Board Staff continues to communicate with TWC on a regular basis. Chair O'Connor recommended Child Care Committee members all take time to advocate and address these programmatic issues to TWC thru public comment.
- c. Texas Rising Star (TRS) Assessment Update
- WSA continues to reflect the positive progression of the Texas Rising Star staff on the certification courses that TWC has required and developed.
 - Mrs. Villarreal also discussed where Alamo Board's falls compared to the State & Local Boards. There have been 456 assessments completed statewide and of those WSA has completed 47 recertification assessments. There are currently 79 centers awaiting assessments.
- d. Briefing on Partnerships & Trajectory towards Quality
- WSA Child Care, through the Child Care Subsidy contract & Child Care Quality contract, assists in removing the barriers that prevent parents, at an economic disadvantage, from participating in education and training, to improve their employment prospects and give their children stronger start through accessing quality childcare. This support not only helps to provide families economic well-being, but it also provides children tools that help them develop the emotional, social, and cognitive skills needed to become lifelong learners. WSA's Child Care continues to work closely with many partners, agencies, and organizations to seek out opportunities

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available that can aid in bridging the gap between Child Care and our local Workforce.

- Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) was awarded a grant to assist Child Care Services (CCS) Providers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for the grant came from a \$75,000 disaster response grant from Texas Mutual Insurance. As part of the grant application process, WSA distributed funding to 20 providers in the amount of \$2,500 to \$5,000 each. These providers purchased a variety of materials and equipment. The most popular purchases included about \$13,500 in Mud Kitchens/Accessories, and \$13,000 in furniture, \$7,000 in Music/Movement.
- In Spring of 2021, 11 individuals were awarded scholarships totaling \$7,093 and received an incentive totaling \$11,000 for successfully completing the semester. One staff has successfully completed her Level II Early Childhood Studies Certificate. In Fall of 2021, 18 staff were awarded a scholarship totaling \$12,284 and will receive their completion incentive in 2022. One staff has successfully completed her Level II Early Childhood Studies Certificate.
- Board Member Pipoly added United Way will have their data platform completed in the next 90-days.
- Dr. Munoz stated TX A&M is adding more Early Childhood faculty and will welcome any students that are seeking BA degrees in early childhood.

VII. EARLY MATTERS

Presenter: Mr. Mark Larson, Early Matters Officer

a. Accomplishments, Current Initiatives, Next Steps

- Mr. Mark Larson, Early Matters Officer provided an overview to the Child Care Committee of Early Matters and how they partner with other agencies including WSA. He also addressed the Early Childhood Education, ECE strategic plan.
- Early Matters ensures access to high-quality early learning and development for every family by way of catalyzing the power of people, partnerships, and investment to make San Antonio the best place in the country for economic mobility, powered by children and families.
- He described the opportunities for partnering with WSA.
 - Support the Sector-based Approach
 - Quality Pathways – coordinate Mentors & Assessors with partners

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- Aligning on city-wide plan – may allow for leveraging TWC matching for both business and philanthropy in some areas
- Shared Services applications for entire WSA geography
- Research policies/practices from other regions
- Dr. Munoz added, Board of Regents at Texas A&M have agreed to allow Texas A&M San Antonio to establish a research center for early childcare and child development. The center will focus on early childhood care, early childhood development, benchmarking and assessments, data collection and analysis.

VIII. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

- CEO Lopez informed the Child Care Committee that WSA would be sending an editorial to the SA Express News to highlight success story and bring attention to the need for childcare in our communities and the work that WSA has done in the last 24 months during the pandemic.
 - CEO Lopez also informed the committee that Judge Teal approached him requesting assistance with opening a childcare center in McMullen County. Board Staff and Contractors met with McMullen County staff and provided support and resources for their initiative of opening a childcare center.
- b. Success Stories
- Success stories are about real people that have been affected by the pandemic and how WSA has been able to provide training and/or education to better themselves and their families.

IX. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

- XI. 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;
 - 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

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- d. Government Code §551.074- Personnel Matters involving Senior Executive Staff and Employees of Workforce Solutions Alamo.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

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