



MINUTES STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa St., Suite 120, Boardroom
San Antonio, TX 78207
January 31, 2025
10:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Eric Cooper, Leslie Cantu, Anthony Magaro, Jim Robertson, Angelique De Oliveira, Chris Corso, Eunice Grant

WSA STAFF: Chris Ferguson, Eric Vryn, Gabriela Navarro, George Mazariegos, Jesse Maldonado, Lisa Rodriguez, Paul Briseno, Ricardo G. Ramirez, Trema Cote, Trish Medina, Donavon Berry

LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

CONTRACTORS: Gabriela Horbach, Brenda Garcia, Manuel Ugues, Sylvia Perez

PARTNERS: Joel Morgan (WDO)

GUESTS: Jessica Vachon

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair
At 10:00 AM, Eric Cooper, Committee Chair called the meeting to order.
- II. ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DETERMINATION
Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair
The roll was called, and a quorum was declared present.
- III. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST
Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair
None.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT
Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair
None.

Workforce Solutions Alamo is an equal opportunity employer/program. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special accommodation should contact Janel Santos at (210) 850-2160 so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2969 (TDD) or 711 (Voice).

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MEETING MINUTES

Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair

a Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2024

Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Angelique De Oliveira, seconded by Leslie Cantu. All in favor of approving the minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2024.

VI. PROCUREMENT UPDATE (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Kristen Rodriguez, Interim Director of Procurement and Contracts

a Facility Updates:

i. Bandera Update

ii. O'Connor Update

Kristen Rodriguez, Interim Director of Procurement and Contracts provided an update on the contract negotiations, construction updates, fiscal impact, and the next steps for the Workforce Solutions Alamo located at 803 Buck Creek, Bandera, TX and Workforce Solutions Alamo located at 11711 IH 35N, San Antonio, Texas.

b. Business Services Strategy and Industry Sector Partnership RFP

Kristen Rodriguez, Interim Director of Procurement and Contracts provided an update Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) is presenting the scope of work for the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) to enhance its strategic workforce development goals. The outlined tasks aim to improve sector-based partnerships, optimize business service delivery, and ensure a measurable impact aligned with workforce engagement strategies. The objective is to strengthen WSA's capacity to meet employer needs, align with industry's best practices, and enhance partnerships.

VII. MARKETING

Presenter: James Keith, Director of Public & Govt Relations

a Port SA Grand Opening

The grand opening has been posted. A new date will be announced soon.

b. PROWD Grant Press Conference

Coverage from KENS, KABB, WOAI TV, Spectrum News with representatives from Crosspoint; Goodwill San Antonio; Easy Expunctions, U.S. Probation Office, Health Collaborative, and Webhead were in attendance. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) received a \$4.6 million grant called the Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development (PROWD) from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Department of Justice. This grant helps provide job services for individuals who have recently been released from federal prisons. Workforce Solutions Alamo is one of eight TWC boards running the program. Goodwill will provide services, and Workforce Solutions Alamo will work with Crosspoint to enroll eligible participants.

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VIII. PROGRAMS UPDATE

Presenter: Victoria Rodriguez, Director of Workforce Services

a. DOL Grant

Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) was recently awarded a \$2,000,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for the San Antonio Infrastructure Academy. The five-year grant, awarded on October 1, 2024, is designed to address gaps in the construction industry by providing training, upskilling, and assessments to support the region's growing infrastructure and renewable energy projects.

b. Incumbent Worker Funding

Incumbent worker training is a strategic approach to upskilling current employees while creating opportunities for new hires. Traditionally, these programs are funded through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) resources. However, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) offers additional funding opportunities, such as: Skills for Small Business: Provides training for employees of small businesses; Skills Development Fund: Focused on collaborations between employers and training institutions to deliver customized training; Self-Sufficiency Fund: Designed to support training that leads to better wages and self-sufficient employment for workers and High Demand Job Training Program: Targets skills training for high-demand occupations.

c. TX FAME

Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) now serves as the TX FAME Hub organization, integrating the FAME into its current programs and services. Currently the Youth Service Delivery Model forms the foundation for this innovative integration of services as TX FAME aligns with the pillars of engagement, exploration, and experience. TX FAME provides a pathway for youth to enter manufacturing careers at an accelerated pace. The collaboration between TX FAME and WSA leverages WSA's existing resources and services to create a symbiotic relationship that enhances client success. The primary goal of the youth service delivery model is to offer accessible career opportunities for youth by utilizing a network of partners and resources.

d. Business Services

Business Services Solution Team Scorecard and Upcoming Events. This update provides progress on Business Solutions Services to the WSA Board of Directors as of December 4, 2024. The Team has created a 2025 calendar to outline key dates for employers and job seekers, establishing a structured rhythm for interactions. Discussions are ongoing about enhancing employer partnerships across the Alamo Region to drive mutual growth and success.

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e. Mobile Unit Schedule

Starting in February, Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) will launch the Workforce One Mobile Unit across our 13-county area. This initiative will recognize the 55 employers from the 2024 Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) program, support Career Centers, and engage with local communities. The mobile unit will also participate in community events to offer employment resources and workforce development services.

f. Update on Day Laborer Site Locations

In October, Committee Chair Eric Copper expressed concerns about the services available to day laborers and how Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) could better support this group. Many face barriers like lack of citizenship, identification, or work authorization, making access to employment services difficult. WSA's one-stop centers and mobile units provide various services to all customers, including day laborers. To better serve the day laborer population, WSA could leverage its mobile unit to deliver services in partnership with trusted community agencies that already serve this demographic. By implementing this plan, WSA will be able to address critical barriers faced by the day laborer population while promoting inclusivity and access to employment services.

g. Capstone Project

WSA and Jessica have established a Capstone Project agreement to create an asset map for the Student HireAbility Navigator role. This project will last 14 weeks and involve Jessica shadowing the Navigator to gather insights and develop an organized asset map for a 13-county region, highlighting services for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Jessica will interview employers, schools, childcare providers, and community organizations to understand the existing resource network. This initiative aims to produce a valuable tool for WSA and its partners to use in the future.

IX. CEO REPORT (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

a. Local Plan

Workforce Solutions Alamo staff are currently developing the 2025-2028 Local Plan. The Local Plan is a mandated 4-year policy document outlining the main regional strategies and core services, including selecting the Target Occupations List for training investments using WIOA and other funds. The process involves securing feedback and local wisdom from key stakeholders, including employers, job seekers, community-based organizations, economic development, educational institutions, and others, in partnership with the chief elected officials. Adrian Lopez, CEO of Workforce Solutions Alamo provided the Local Plan 2025-2028 Presentation and next steps.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair

Eric Cooper provided the following update: He attended a workshop in Austin, led by John Brisco from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Mr. Brisco has been with HHSC for two years, having previously worked with Oregon's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed). In Texas, the United States Department of Agriculture matches the state's investment of approximately \$9 million, resulting in a total budget of \$18 million. In contrast, Oregon, which has a population comparable to that of San Antonio, allocates only around \$250000 but successfully leverages approximately \$60 million in SNAP-Ed funding through collaborations with workforce boards, colleges, and community organizations. Mr. Brisco's objective is to identify workforce boards in Texas that are willing to collaborate by October 1.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Committee may move 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:
- b. 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.
- c. 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, Pending or Contemplated Litigation.
- d. Government Code §551.074 – Personnel Matters Involving Senior Executive Staff and Employees of Workforce Solutions Alamo; and
- e. Government Code §551.089 – Discussions Regarding Security Devices or Audits.

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Presenter: Eric Cooper, Committee Chair

Motion by Jim Robertson the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM