



MINUTES EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa St., Suite 120, Boardroom
San Antonio, TX 78207
July 18, 2025
9:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Leslie Cantu, Elizabeth Lutz, Yousef Kassim, Dawn Dixon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Todd Landry, Dr. Henrietta Munoz, Ashley Orihel, Jennifer Martinez, Eunice Grant

STAFF: Adrian Lopez, Teresa Chavez, Brandee Perez, Eric Vryn, Gabriela Navarro Garcia, Kristen Rodriguez, Becky Espino-Balencia, Dr. Ricardo Ramirez, Trema Cote, Gregory Villines, Jesse Maldonado, Juan Palencia, Maria Martinez, Kimberly Gomez, Jessica Villarreal, Victoria Rodriguez, Chris Ferguson, Erika Landeros, Jessica Lockhart, Sandra Alvarez,

PARTNER STAFF: None

GUESTS: Jessica Bracamonte, Patricia Alejandro, Liza Gomez, Jessica Vachon, Gabriella Oviedo, Tabitha Munoz, Sonia Oviedo, Leticia Munoz, Teresa Robledo

LEGAL COUNSEL: 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 the meeting. Questions relating to these rules may be directed to Janel Santos (210) 850-2160.

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 a 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.

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During the Public Comments portion of the meeting (Agenda Item 4), 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.

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)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

At 9:02 AM, Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

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

III. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

None.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

None.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MEETING MINUTES

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

a. Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2025

Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Mark Larson, seconded by Yousef Kassim. All in favor of approving the minutes of the meeting held on April 4, 2025.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

a. Childcare Performance Briefing

b. Texas Rising Star Assessment Update

Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Mark Larson, seconded by Yousef Kassim. All in favor of approving the consent agenda as presented.

VII. CITY OF SAN ANTONIO READY TO WORK CHILD CARE PILOT PROGRAM (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Joel Morgan, Assistant Director Workforce Development Office City of San Antonio
Joel Morgan, Assistant Director of the Workforce Development Office, City of San Antonio, provided a presentation on the City's Ready to Work Child Care Pilot Program. The presentation covered: the rationale for investing in Ready to Work; progress to date, including an overview and financial snapshot; identified childcare needs; the program objective; an overview of the childcare program; and a Q&A session.

VIII. CHILDCARE UPDATES (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care

a. Texas Rising Star Business Coach Update

Patricia Alejandro provided the Texas Rising Star Business Coach Update that included the following: Bexar County Collaborative Partnership Agreements; Rural Collaborative Partnership Agreements; Smart Goals & Potential Center Fiscal Impacts; Empowering Childcare: Growth, Resources, and Partnerships.

b. Trauma-Informed Contract for Centers: Update on progress and next steps

Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care, provided an update on the AQP Pathway: Counseling and Health Support for Trauma Informed Services for Early Learning Programs.

- c. Co-Op Updates: Review of ongoing cooperative research/surveys/initiatives.
Update on the development of co-op opportunities in rural areas. Work has begun, though efforts remain in the early stages as we focus on assessing the specific needs of rural communities and providers. This is an ongoing initiative, and we will continue to share updates as our understanding of community needs expands and plans become more defined.

IX. PARTNER UPDATES

- a. Early Matters
Provided a Policy and Legislative Session Update that included: ECE Workforce – SB 462; Improving Texas’ Childcare Data Systems – HB 3963; Removing Burdensome Regulation for Home-Based Childcare – SB 599; Private Childcare Providers Included in Texas Educational Savings Account – SB 2; \$100M for Child Care Scholarships; Improving Mixed Delivery Pre-Kindergarten – HB 2; Full-day funding for 4-year olds in Public PreK; Early Elementary -HB 2; Our Bold Promise and Impact Plan.
- b. United Way
Our programs provide both funding and coaching to expand the number of quality childcare slots and to help centers maintain their Texas Rising Star status. Achieving quality designation is one challenge but sustaining it requires ongoing investment. We support centers with funding to maintain that status, as well as with professional development and training for early childhood professionals. These efforts focus not only on recruiting new professionals into the field but also on sustaining experienced, highly knowledgeable staff through ongoing training opportunities. Additionally, our investments in kindergarten readiness support programs that offer developmental screenings and referral services, ensuring children receive early interventions when needed.
- c. Texas A&M University San Antonio
None.
- d. Pre-K for SA
John Green-Otero, new to the group, expressed his appreciation for being part of the meeting and noted seeing many familiar faces. He shared that his team will be moving into their new South building next week, which will allow them to serve infants and toddlers for the first time. In addition, they are redesigning their delivery model to expand their reach and better serve providers in the community. He also highlighted that their CDA course is nearly doubling in size through a partnership with the Communities team, significantly increasing their workforce support capacity. John emphasized that these initiatives align closely with the group’s ongoing conversations and reflect their commitment to contributing value to the community.

X. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

- a. Inclusion in Early Child Development – Board chair recommendation to include Teresa and Child Care Board staff in meetings.

Acknowledge Chair Ana De Hoyos O'Connor for your leadership in this committee. I think this really speaks of the effort to bring different groups together to address what we all want. We all want more children in childcare, and we want quality childcare. We want our childcare centers to be successful. We want programs like Ready to Work—especially as they consider childcare—to be successful as well. One point I'd add, and I didn't mention this to Joe earlier, though he knows because we've talked about it before, is that when we think about new initiatives, it's really important to bring in the experts in the field. Their input in the design of these programs can make the difference between whether they succeed. There's a Spanish saying I was thinking of: "*Zapatero a tus zapatos*"—which basically means, "Shoemaker, stick to your shoes." In other words, let's lean on the people who know this work best to help shape solutions that will truly last.

XI. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

- a. WSA was awarded a 2025 Generational Learning Grant from Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

On another note, our team is not only doing all this work to keep our children in care, but we were also successful in securing additional funding. Jessica led the effort, and we're excited to share that we received mutual funding again from Generational Learning — a grant we've been awarded in the past. This funding will support work with children in our programs who have disabilities. While the overall grant amount is slightly less than before, it still allows us to continue the important work we've already been doing, while enhancing and expanding training opportunities with our centers. We're very pleased to be able to keep this initiative moving forward.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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:

- 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, Pending or Contemplated Litigation; and/or Settlement Offer;
- c. Government Code §551.074 – To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee of Workforce Solutions Alamo.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

On a motion by Mark Larson seconded Jennifer Martinez, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.