



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa St., Suite 120, Boardroom
San Antonio, TX 78207

January 12, 2024

10:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor (Chair), Betty Munoz (10:04am), Leslie Cantu, Elizabeth Lutz, Tylane Barnes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Henrietta Munoz, Edwina Allen, Eunice Grant, Jennifer Martinez, Kristy Kothe, Lisa Elizondo, Liza Gomez, Mark Larson

STAFF: Carlos Garcia, Gabriela Navarro Garcia, Jessica Lockhart, Jessica Villarreal, Kimberly Villarreal, Kristen Rodriguez, Teresa Chavez, Vanessa McHaney, Alfred Salazar, Jamesetta Stallion-Head, Trema Cote

PARTNER STAFF: Amy Contreras, Patricia Alejandro, Michael Gaona, Amy Foster, Richard Alcabes

GUESTS: Dr. Jacqueline Pugh, Commissioner for City Council District 9

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 Caroline Goddard at (210) 322-6296.

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.

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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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

At 10:00am, 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 MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2023, EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

Upon motion by Liza Gomez and seconded by Tylane Barnes, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes from November 6, 2023, Early Care & Education Committee meeting.

VI. PARTNER UPDATE: MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Presenters: Dr. Jacqueline Pugh, Commissioner for City Council District 9, and Sara Gerrish, Commissioner for City Council District 5

- A resolution establishing MCSW was passed by the City Council of the City of San Antonio on May 7, 1970 "to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council of the City of San Antonio to advice on matters affecting the employment

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opportunities, education, social, civic, and political participation by women in the American way of life”.

- The International Women’s Day Meeting will be held on March 8, 2024, in the afternoon at Culture Commons. The goal is to discuss and recommend short- and long-term policies for COSA in the Mayor’s three priority areas of entrepreneurship/workforce development, women’s health, and domestic and intimate partner violence.
- The entrepreneurship/workforce development topic is childcare as a barrier for workforce development. The structure will include 30 minutes of three panelist presentations and 15 minutes of discussion and consensus building with the invited and general public audience regarding policy priorities.
- The proposed topics are quality and accessibility gap between what is needed and what is available by Kathy Fletcher, first report of survey of local childcare facilities commission by COSA by Dr. Melissa, Jozwiak, and tales from the frontline and what childcare directors and providers say they need by Professor Ana DeHoyos O’Connor.
- Seeking input on the proposed session content for who else needs to be in the room to push policies forward, policy recommendations, and who to speak to before the meeting, such as more childcare providers.
- Amy Contreras mentioned that the City of San Antonio’s Ready to Work program will be holding a summit in February that is powered by the Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau and the National League of Cities’ Good Jobs Great Cities. One of the main focuses will be childcare. Amy would like to collaborate to establish the International Women’s Day Meeting to be the second phase of the policy recommendation conversation.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care

- Tylane Barnes, Lisa Elizondo, Eunice Grant, and Edwina Allen introduced themselves. Current committee members also introduced themselves.

VIII. CHILDCARE UPDATES (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care

a. Childcare Performance Briefing

- Goals for FY24 include:
 - In collaboration with partners, host the 1st Annual Alamo Quality Pathway Conference.
 - Expand partnerships to include in the Alamo Quality Pathway.
 - Explore ways to provide Parent Education and Training on topics such as child growth and development, social and emotional skills, play, special needs, inclusion, trauma/grief, and inclusion assistance.
 - Provide support to centers with navigating through National Accreditation processes.
 - Research/procure training available to assist Early Learning Centers to

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becoming trauma informed.

- Dr. Henrietta Munoz added that Texas A&M San Antonio College of Education and Human Development Kinesiology and Counseling Department received a large grant to train educators for mental health first aid. It is a trauma informed care approach and required by TEA for K-12 teachers and educators. Dr. Munoz stated that if any childcare professionals need that level of training, then they can assist.
- Quality investments include:
 - Infant & Toddler (Including PD) - \$300,000
 - Professional Development - \$250,000
 - TRS/Quality Improvement (Except PD; including TRS personnel) - \$2,800,000
 - Evaluation & Assessment (Tools to measure effective practice or child development/program) - \$25,000
 - Supporting National Accreditation - \$5,000
 - Other (Bonuses/Wages/Incentives) - \$2,200,000
- Childcare performance: WSA's unofficial YTD average for FY24 is 90.74%, or 11,237 units, which is below performance. TWC has been made aware of this and they aren't concerned because they see that Alamo is showing growth. Alamo should be back on track to meet performance in late February or early March.
- Children In Care/Waitlist: 7,280 families are in care, 12,472 children in care, 3,798 families on waitlist, and 6,241 children on waitlist. 1,696 infants, 1,548 toddlers, 1,417 preschoolers, and 1,548 school age children is the breakdown of the waitlist.
- b. Texas Rising Star Assessment Update
 - 181 centers are currently certified centers for Texas Rising Star, which is 31%. TWC's contractor has seen a large number of centers that need to be assessed, therefore, they are putting the annual monitoring visits on hold until September to focus on the initial assessments that need to be completed by September.
 - CCS capacity shows 589 total providers with 56,370 capacity. Rural providers are 134 with 12,629 capacity.
 - October shows 8 new providers and 7 providers ending their CCS agreement. November shows 13 new providers and 15 providers ending their CCS agreement.
- c. TRS Contracted Slots Pilot Briefing
 - As of December 31, 2023, the TRS Contracted Slots Pilot has ended. 50 slots were awarded, and 28 slots were filled, leaving 22 slots unfulfilled.
 - Tylane Barnes commented that she thought this was an excellent program that gave more opportunities for children to get into care. The reason for their spots not being filled was due to the operating hour schedule conflicting with the times parents needed care. She stated that asking parents ahead of time before sending them to a center would be best practice.
- d. Entry Level Designation & Efforts Towards Increasing and Accessing Quality
 - As of January 2024, 324 centers are at an Entry Level Designation deadline of

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September 2024. Of the 324, 205 are eligible with 24 dually enrolled in an organization cohort, 81 participated in WSA cohort, and 115 not participating in a cohort. Of the 324, 119 are ineligible with 13 dually enrolled in an organization cohort, 43 participated in a WSA cohort, 4 enrolled in an external organization cohort, and 59 not enrolled in a cohort.

- Liza Gomez added that United Way has hired additional coaches to support the effort in getting centers to TRS certification. These 5 coaches have the capacity to serve 20 centers at a time. The centers with deficiencies are also on their list to assist.
- December TRS and ELD Business Coaching: 39 partnership agreements and 101 contacts. Additional resources include New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce to work with business partners in the community to connect them with providers in the community, New Braunfels Food Bank, SPARK Business Planning, Family Life Center New Braunfels, and Economic Development Center COSA. Training includes provided business planning on November 9 and 14, Skills for Small Business Training Scholarship offering at Alamo Colleges District, and Small Business Development Center, which is a monthly business training through UTSA. Highlights include potential expansion grant amount of \$2,553,424, connected Respite Agency with ECI to assist with enrollment and connected them with ECE director at SAC to mentor with NAEYC accreditation, and a Pleasanton Express potential business venture grant in the amount of \$10,000.
- Patricia Alejandro and Michael Gaona stated that they are building relationships and trust with the providers and providing them with resources. They are working on a needs analysis to have them share what their business needs and plans are.

IX. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

Presented by: Teresa Chavez, COO

a. Success Stories

- Teresa Chavez stated that Mr. Lopez could not join the meeting today, but asked the committee to review the success stories that were provided to them in their packet.

X. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

- Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor stated that the next step is to put into place MOUs with everyone on this committee.

XI. 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

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- 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;
 - 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: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

At 11:17am, Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor adjourned the meeting.

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