



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

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

May 5, 2023

10:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor (Chair), Betty Munoz, Leslie Cantu, Yousef Kassim, Elizabeth Lutz (10:21am), Dawn Dixon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Sarah Baray, Dr. Henrietta Munoz, Mark Larson, Liza Gomez, Jennifer Martinez, Kristy Kothe (10:07am)

WSA STAFF: Adrian Lopez, Katherine Pipoly, Jessica Villarreal, Linda Martinez, Vanessa McHaney, Carlos Garcia, Kimberly Villarreal, Helane Aghayere, Chuck Agwuegbo, Annie Montana, Jessica Bracamonte, Patricia Alejandro

LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

GUEST: Aubri Simpson with Manifest Academy, Marshal Hoak with Bexar County, Tylane Barnes, M.Ed. with Converse Christian School & Early Learning Center

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 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.

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Martinez, (210) 272- 3250.

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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 10:01 am, Chair 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

Ms. Tylane Barnes, M.Ed., Converse Christian School & Early Learning Center

— Ms. Barnes would like to thank Workforce Solutions Alamo for the staff incentives her center has been able to receive. This has made a positive impact in the staff's lives and they are happier when they go to work.

Ms. Rita Medellin, Owner/Director, Leap Ahead Learning

— Ms. Medellin was not present at the time of the public comments session.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2023
CHILD CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

Upon motion by Dr. Sarah Baray and second by Mark Larson, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes from March 3, 2023 Child Care Committee meeting.

VI. EARLY MATTERS UPDATE AND HB1979 DISCUSSION

Presenter: Mark Larson, Executive Director, Early Matters San Antonio

— The 88th Legislative Session is being held for 140 days from January through May,

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2023.

- WSA’s early childhood work is unusually strong across the sector, but that is not true for other areas. This bill added additional Board members with expertise in childcare. The bill included that 10% of the 51% would have childcare expertise. Right now, the minimum is to have one Board member with childcare expertise.
- HB1979 and SB1844 was heard on the House floor on May 2, voted out, and referred to NRED. It is now heading to the Senate and they have stated that when the time is appropriate, they will hear it. It is possible that the bill will die out.
- Dr. Sarah Baray asked if there can be rural representation on this committee. Chair DeHoyos O’Connor stated that they currently have one, but are looking for more. She also stated that in the rural areas the Directors at the centers are extremely busy and do not wish to participate in additional meetings, so they are looking at other ways to be able to incorporate them.
- HB1614 Increase PreK partnerships was voted out of the House on April 18.
- HB3621 and SB1145 Property tax relief for providers in TWC scholarship program was voted out of the House on April 24 and out of the Senate on May 2.
- HB1834 and SB353 Reimbursement rates for quality childcare was heard in IRED on April 25 and referred to NRED on February 15.
- The Rider bill on Bedrock funding was heard in committee on March 14 and is now in Article XI.
- HB3771 now has 70 bipartisan coauthors and the bill states that if an employer wants to help support childcare for the employees, then the state will match it. This bill will be voted on the floor the next day after this meeting.
- SB2315 suggests establishing a task force to streamline and bring together Health and Human Services and Texas Workforce Commission. Mark Larson suggested WSA look into this bill because it seems to be moving and would impact the work.
- Dr. Sarah Baray asked if the person who is in charge of tracking bills at WSA could report on the latest information and updates to the committee.
- Dr. Henrietta Munoz suggested having a work session after legislation is over to review what happened, to understand how to better communicate, and to better share the legislative agendas from the partners. She also wanted to go on the record to state that she has a concern with WSA taking a break from Early Matters while legislation is happening.
- Mark Larson stated that he will keep in contact with COO Katherine Pipoly and notify her whenever he hears anything on these bills. He also wanted to go on the record to state that Early Matters had no impact or roll on the sunset bill that is being proposed to review workforce Boards.

VII. CHILD CARE UPDATES (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care

a. Child Care Performance Briefing

- WSA’s unofficial YTD average for FY23 is 102.86%. Right now the budget is being expended.
- As of April 17, 2023, 7,944 families are in care, 13,543 children are in care, 2,901 families on waitlist, and 4,731 children on waitlist.

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- b. Texas Rising Star Assessment Update
 - 143 centers are currently certified, 56 centers have completed annual monitoring, 39 centers increased their star level, 2 centers are awaiting their initial assessment, 87 centers are awaiting their annual monitoring assessment, and 4 centers have submitted their application for initial assessment since the last committee meeting. 18 centers have completed their initial assessment since August 2022.
 - The total number of childcare programs in the region, both urban and rural, is 1,049, the number of CCS programs is 579, the number of TRS programs is 144. The number of TRS/CCS centers is 25%.
 - In BCY23 for CCS providers, there was 1 agreement that ended in December, 2 in February, and 2 in March. The new agreements were 7 in October, 6 in November, 2 in December, 6 in January, 4 in February, and 3 in March.
- c. TRS Contracted Slots Pilot Briefing
 - 8 children have been enrolled in Converse Christian School, 4 in La Mision Child Care and Kid Kamp, and 7 in DePaul Children’s Center.
 - This pilot program was scheduled to end in March, however, TWC has extended it through the end of December.
 - Ms. Barnes stated that this program has encouraged parents to take a weekly parenting course on Wednesdays at Converse Christian School. This also has steered parents to choose quality care education.
- d. Entry Level Designation & Efforts Towards Increasing and Accessing Quality
 - The deadline to become TRS certified is September 30, 2024.
 - Out of the 413 centers that WSA had at the time that TWC did an eligibility review, 3 centers had to have their CCS agreement end and the children transferred to another location. One center was eligible to reapply in two weeks and TWC granted an extension for the children at this location as long as they completed their application by May 1. The center was successful in accomplishing this and the children did not have to move. The other two centers had to have the children transferred and will reapply for CCS within the month.
 - 425 providers have been identified by TWC as meeting Entry Level Designation, 312 in Bexar and 113 in rural areas.
 - Mark Larson stated that he has received a statewide survey of almost 2,000 childcare providers and they found that 43% are either planning on closing or will close. He noticed that 200 participants were in San Antonio. He wanted to bring this to the attention of the Committee and to start thinking about how this will impact the families and children. Chair DeHoyos O’Connor stated that she will discuss the childcare crisis further with Mark Larson and has plans to discuss this with the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Liza Gomez added that PreK4SA, Region 20, and United Way are partnering to see which centers are not involved in a cohort and are devising a plan of outreach.
 - Currently 77 out of 425 eligible Providers are enrolled in the WSA Quality Cohort, 62 in Bexar County and 15 in rural areas. A total of 81 Providers have completed a WSA Quality Cohort since October 2022. WSA has touched 158 centers so far that were considered Entry Level Designation.

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- Professional development opportunities for Early Learning Programs: 2 completed in March, 10 completed in April, 8 in progress for May, 7 scheduled in June, 7 scheduled in July, and 7 scheduled in August.
- WSA Quality Cohorts: 11 completed in Spring 2022, 71 completed in Fall 2022, and 77 in process for Spring 2023.
- Liza Gomez presented the Alamo Quality Pathway. United Way and Region 20 both are able to work with ELD ineligible, ineligible, and ELD centers. WSA only works with ELD centers. All three come together to provide quality coaching and TRS mentoring.
- Investments in Quality: Over \$2.1M to 60 Providers in staff bonuses, \$403,325 TRS incentives for 1,427 staff, \$404,773 quality materials for centers enrolled in the cohort, \$41,051 additional materials to TRS centers, \$218,550 monetary incentives to purchase quality materials for centers, \$12,000 in college tuition, \$69,708 in professional development, and \$138,500 in special incentives.

VIII. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

- a. Success Stories

IX. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

X. 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;**
- 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.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

Upon motion by Mark Larson and second by Dr. Henrietta Munoz, Chair DeHoyos O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 11:42am.

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