



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES

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

July 14, 2023

10:00 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor (Chair), Leslie Cantu, Yousef Kassim (10:30am), Elizabeth Lutz (10:17am), Dawn Dixon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Sarah Baray, Mark Larson, Liza Gomez, Jennifer Martinez

WSA STAFF: Adrian Lopez, Adrian Perez, Giovanna Escalante-Vela, Jessica Villarreal, Linda Martinez, Vanessa McHaney, Helane Aghayere, Jessica Lockhart, Jessica Bracamonte, Kim Villarreal

PARTNERS: Amy Contreras

LEGAL COUNSEL: None

GUEST: 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 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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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 10:01am, 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

None.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM MAY 5, 2023
EARLY CARE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

Upon motion by Dr. Sarah Baray and seconded by Mark Larson, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes from May 5, 2023, Early Care & Education Committee Meeting.

VI. EARLY MATTERS UPDATE

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

— The regular legislative session is over with special sessions still happening. Very little action occurred with early education in the legislature. One item that changed across all boards was for the board member who has expertise in early childhood change to say a board member is of the early childhood workforce. The second item is for the November ballot, a statewide constitutional amendment, to vote up or down regarding a property tax reduction for privately owned childcare centers.

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- At the Early Matters board meeting, Adrian Lopez suggested having a board member that represents the rural area. Mark Larson will follow up to keep encouraging this suggestion.
- CEO Adrian Lopez asked Mark Larson to send a letter on behalf of Early Matters to ACOG to suggest childcare as an economic strategy.

VII. CHILDCARE UPDATES (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Presenter: Jessica Villarreal, Director of Child Care

a. Childcare Performance Briefing

- Alamo is averaging above average performance at 105.14%. Intake is temporarily closed for about a month until the new targets are received from TWC.
- Families in care are 7,952 with 13,869 children in care. Families on the waitlist are 4,123 with 6,918 children on the waitlist. Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor added that many families are on the waitlist because the centers do not open early enough for them, and they are waiting for the center that does. Amy Contreras asked for a more specific chart to show the age range of the children on the waitlist and the urgency level for those families.
- Mark Larson asked for an explanation of the additional \$4.8M that TWC gave WSA in May. Jessica Villarreal explained that it was increased funding from TWC and the target rate for children in care also increased.

b. Texas Rising Star Assessment Update

- 153 centers are currently certified as TRS. 105 monitoring assessments have been completed with 32 initials completed. The percentage of CCS programs that are TRS is 26.58%.

c. TRS Contracted Slots Pilot Briefing

- 50 slots have been awarded for infant and/or toddler expansion. Currently enrolled are 13 at Converse Christian School, 7 at La Mision, and 11 at DePaul. Several slots are still available, and staff are diligently working to fill these slots by reaching out to families and working to get the paperwork completed and turned in.

d. Entry Level Designation & Efforts Towards Increasing and Accessing Quality

- 403 providers have been identified by TWC as meeting Entry Level Designation. 312 in Bexar County and 113 in the rural areas with 341 being centers and 62 being homes.
- WSA has asked the contractor to add 8 additional mentors.
- Currently 70 out of 403 eligible providers are enrolled in the WSA Quality Cohort. They make up 59 centers, 49 in Bexar County and 10 in the rural areas, and 11 homes, 8 in Bexar County and 3 in the rural areas. 81 providers have completed the WSA Quality Cohort since 10/2022. Dr. Sarah Baray would like more information on where those 81 providers are in gaining TRS, for example, if they have applied or are waiting on something.
- WSA is currently scheduled to offer 43 professional development courses.
- WSA has invested over \$2.6M in staff bonuses to 61 providers (41 urban/20 rural), \$466,450 in staff incentives which impacted 129 Early Learning Programs

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and 1,757 Early Learning Professionals, \$645,300 in material which impacted 84 Early Learning Programs and approximately 8,027 children, and \$250,000 for professional development through an RFP process and awarded 18 vendors to deliver trainings to the Alamo area with an active CCS agreement.

- Pre-K for SA – Dr. Sarah Baray, CEO

- Shared services started in 2019 in partnership with United Way. Started with 15 centers serving 1,000 children, 13 of which are now TRS 3 or 4 star and 2 awaiting TRS assessment. Provided automation support, infant/toddler retention stipends and CDAs, and started substitute pool.
- There was an expansion in 2022 which included \$1.5M TWC grant, added 42 centers which brought it to a total of 57 centers serving 4,000 children. These centers represent 32 zip codes across San Antonio, and 38 centers are not TRS. Increased from 5 to 16 staff members to support alliance, provided 252 hours of one-on-one coaching to directors and teachers, and created Provider Council to guide the work.
- Expansion phase two in 2023 is to recruit another cohort of 18 centers and 25 family home providers with emphasis on East and South San Antonio. Focus on automation and TRS, hold hiring fair to help fill vacancies, launch SA-SSA website, and evaluate study results.
- 2024 and beyond will focus on sustainability. This includes reviewing Iron Triangle metrics and make adjustments, add additional back-office services, and develop Pre-K partnerships with public schools.

- United Way – Liza Gomez, Director of Education Initiatives

- United Way is now providing a systems level investment to two of their funded partners. Family Service Association and Saint Paul Lutheran Child Development Center will be hiring three new quality coaches who will be dedicated on coaching 60 centers that are CCS to achieve TRS.
- The last meeting of the first session on the Alamo quality pathway was held with 30 participants. The meeting discussed the Texas Rising Star categories and best practices to ensure the categories are being met when coaching centers.
- United Way implemented the Directors of Excellence program. This program helps directors have other directors as a mentor support who have already achieved TRS.

- Region 20 – Jennifer Martinez, Consultant, Early Childhood Education

- Received Texas School Ready grant extension and expansion with 35 new classrooms, 62 total classrooms, and 19 centers and center directors that ESC-20 will support towards TRS.
- Working on aligning professional development to providers needs and attaining TRS.
- Formal collaboration with WSA and United Way for the Alamo Quality Pathways Initiative. The pathway includes coaching cohorts, transfer of knowledge collaboration, TRS mentoring and assessment, and TRS sustainability.

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VIII. CEO REPORT

Presenter: Adrian Lopez, CEO

a. Success Stories

- TWC has asked Jessica Villarreal to present at the state conference.
- WSA was asked by the Golden Crescent workforce board to send an assessor and they received a 4-star certification at one of their centers.

IX. CHAIR REPORT

Presenter: Ana DeHoyos O'Connor, Committee Chair

- Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor is working with Jessica Villarreal on a project related to respite care. Also, she is working with one of the contractors on helping women who have been through training to complete their CDA.

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 seconded by Jennifer Martinez, Chair Ana DeHoyos O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 11:48am.