



Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board staff introductions and Baker Ripley staff introductions.

No announcements at this time.

Quinton Buckley and Kristy Smith with Baker Ripley present:

- BR Team and Contacts
- Update on outreach and enrollment—sent out 4 waves over the last 2 months. Emailing, mailing, and calling to outreach. 129 applications received. Will send out another wave next week. Low response rate. Please encourage parents to apply.
- Local Referral Partners—quality rated center can become a Local Referral Partner by completing an agreement and orientation, referral submitted. If you are not signed up, email us. Local Referral Partners are Priority Group 3. Please prescreen.
- Provider updates—updated DOSS has been sent out, please return as soon as possible. Continue attendance manually. Keep us informed. School Age referrals for full day care is for virtual learning only. Payment Review—please review to make sure it is correct and if it is not correct, please email us.
- Quality Initiatives Update—supplies were given to 181 providers. Training opportunities have been posted. Jeanette Watson Wage Supplement application will be on website soon and will be due by January 29, 2021. CCS will send out an email once the application is ready.
- Input Requested—TWC public comment for the 2022-2024 state plan including the subsidy and TRS programs. Stakeholder Survey—please complete. Virtual Focus Group will be held December 16, 2020 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Details will be sent at completion of the survey and the survey will be available until December 15, 2020.

****PowerPoint Presentation will be sent out to provider**

Open Discussion:

- Chuck—recommendation about updated information for parents. Usually update with providers. Can WFS reach out to providers to get the information if needed?
- Sharon E—is there a liaison to help with parents to help facilitate parent contact?
- Sandy A—will look into a form to give permission for the provider to give information about parents in the event that WFS cannot get in touch with parent.
- Nicole R—Future Advisory Meetings: providers have made a suggestion to meet more frequently. Please put in the chat yes or no and we will tally the votes.
- City of Austin Relief Grant Application is open December 15, 2020 and closes January 15, 2021. It is on the City of Austin webpage and priority is given to Texas Rising Star centers.



- Pat S—suggest minutes of the meeting be taken and sent out. Nicole stated that we will be doing that. Suggestion to include providers in communication with parents where parents give permission for WFS to communicate with the providers about parents.
- Chuck—pays more attention to CCAA portal and can see end date. It would be nice to get a reminder from WFS 1 or 2 weeks out from reauthorization and would be able to get on it and help.
- Maria M—showed concern that when a parent leaves they do not get notified until the parents tells them. Relies on 2450 authorization forms for now.
- Pat S—stated that Rural providers can access 2450s at any time. Is that in the works for Capital Area? For right now just use the contact list to contact WFS for the 2450 authorization forms.
- New technology is possibly coming—will keep everyone updated.
- Consistency and good communication is vital for provider success.
- Would like an easy way to query Parent Share of Cost.
- It was determined that everyone would prefer the future Provider Advisory Meetings to be conducted monthly for 1 hour from 11:30am-12:30pm.
- Davida C—any updates on contracted slots? Nicole replied that it is not on the agenda for today, however, Capital Area is still interested in doing that. We are waiting on feedback from TWC and will need provider feedback down the road.
- Cris P—asked for a quick rundown of the waitlist. Is the low response due to COVID? Yes, it is low across the state, not just in Capital Area. If families missed the opportunity, should they reapply? Yes, they should reapply. If they missed the window for various reasons, encourage them to reach out to the austinccs email. There is not a long wait right now so encourage them to reapply. How many spaces are you looking to fill? 800-900 spaces.
- Cathy M—parents are worried about safety and that is why they aren't responding to outreach. Maybe share the success that providers have had, would that help? Pictures and videos maybe? *track reasons for not enrolling*
- Maria M—are extensions required? TWC says we have to recertify eligibility—no extensions.
- Patsy H—is Local Match being outreached? Kristy S responded: yes, they are being outreached.
- Cris P—has there been a decrease in contracted providers? Any less? Sandy replied they are about the same.
- Patsy H—is the 25% enhancement rate continuing? It will not be continuing beyond December 31, 2020 that we know of.
- Stacy Jo—problem with parents only having 1 week to find a provider. Is that required to only have 1 week? More time will be given to find a provider if the parent is in communication with the caseworker.
- Chuck—suggested that if the enhanced rate goes away in 2021, could that money be used locally to spend on providers? Maybe a locally enhanced rate? Nicole said we can roll that funding over, but not sure if we could use it for that purpose, but it is a great idea. Maybe it could be redirected towards quality providers.
- Formally called Local Match now called Local Referral—that is the email to use to send referrals for the program.



- Sandy A—reminded and asked providers to please continue to update the online portal.

Next Meeting will be in January.

Have a Safe Holiday Season!