



Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

June 24, 21

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

No announcements at this time.

Quinton Buckley with Baker Ripley present:

- Outreach and Enrollment Update—continuing to outreach families and enroll them. Please continue to help spread the word to families who are in need.
- Reporting Absences—All providers are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences. This is done online, link to report: https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences
- Childcare Relief Funding—TWC has approved \$790 million dollars in provider grants. The grant process began on June 11 via an invitation sent out by TWC. If you need assistance with completing the application please email Texas@ECEBizCoach.org
For up to date information on TWC Provider Relief Grants, please visit this site - <https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-child-care>
- Childcare Regulation—CCR is hosting a series of stakeholder meetings. Link to sign up for upcoming Stakeholders Meetings being hosted by Childcare Regulation - https://hhsdcfcs.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9nrsE533wRvHCwS
- Childcare for Essential Workers—Workforce Solutions recently received funding to provide childcare for children of Essential Workers in the following categories: childcare industry, education, pharmacy and healthcare workers, first responders, critical infrastructure, and other infrastructure (see PowerPoint for more in depth description of workers). Care must be at a TRS quality rated center, families must live in the city of Austin, meet the income guidelines, and have at least one parent working in the categories mentioned above. Please share the interest form with any families or staff that may be interested. Link to the interest form - https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/childcare_for_essential_workers_interest
- Quality Initiatives Update—training opportunities are posted and live. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/workforce-solutions-capital-area-17751711191> See a few recommended upcoming trainings on the PowerPoint. TRS Directors Meeting every month. A Back to School Symposium will be held in August.

****PowerPoint Presentation attached**

Donna Sundstrom with APH introduces staff from City of Austin and sends a big thank you to all of the providers during this time.



Joshua Rudow, Cole Hubbard, and Natalia Rodriguez from City of Austin Development Services Department:

- Who We Are
- Process Team Responsibilities
- Process Team Services
- Customer Base
- Contact Information: 512-974-1040; DevelopmentProcessTeam@austintexas.gov
Website: austintexas.gov/DevelopmentProcessTeam
****PowerPoint Presentation attached**

Margaret Willis from DSHS:

- Texas Choose Safe Places Program—Program Mission is to protect children from exposures to harmful substances where they learn, play and grow
- What is a hazardous contaminant? A substance that may be harmful to human health when a person is exposed
- Environmental Exposures—Air, food, soil, water, media
- Children are more vulnerable because they put hands and objects in their mouth, ingest more dust and dirt, and spend more time outside and closer to the ground
- 2015 Caring for our Children Basics: Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education Settings
- Voluntary Services
- Safe Siting
- Facility Hazards—built before 1980, asbestos, mercury, lead, chemicals
- Property Hazards—radon, arsenic
- Benefits of Safe Siting: protects children and ECE providers
- Resources
- Contact Information: 1-888-681-0927; Email: epitox@dshs.texas.gov
Website: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hat/safeplaces/>
Margaret Willis, Program Coordinator
Email: Margaret.willis@dshs.texas.gov
****PowerPoint Presentation attached**

Khotan Harmon from City of Austin Digital Inclusion Fellow:

- Enhancing access to affordable childcare and shared services
- Exploring possibilities of shared services support in the role to include sustainable digital inclusion
- Looking at affordability and competition in pricing, making sure connectivity is what you really need it to be

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- Do you have appropriate devices to support your work?
- Training—can we offer training for the appropriate devices and IT support?
- Khotan will be with the City of Austin on this project through the end of December. Wants to know what is most important to you? What would help you? Want to partner with providers as a way to help support the families you serve as well
- Some ideas mentioned: local indeed for childcare workers, survey, tablet in classrooms, bookkeeping, personal assistant, apps that encourage home language and literacy vocabulary building—dual generation, greater visibility on CCS enrollment and open spots at centers, cameras in classrooms, easy website platforms (how to be more visible on Google)
- Contact Information: 512-968-3023; Email: khotan.harmon@austintexas.gov

Open Discussion:

- Chuck C—have approvals for the TWC grant been sent out yet? Not yet. Nicole will reach out to find out more information on a timeline for notification.

Next Meeting: July 29, 2021