



## Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2021

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

**No announcements at this time.**

**Quinton Buckley with BakerRipley present:**

- COVID Closures—if you have to close due to COVID, please be sure to let us know. Please send your license numbers, closure and anticipated reopening dates, and who is effected (whole school, certain classrooms, # of children).
- 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](https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences) Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance.
- 2022 Calendars—We are currently in the process of collecting 2022 calendars from each provider in order for you to indicate your holidays and dates of closure. If you have any questions or haven't sent your closure calendar, please email [ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com](mailto:ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com)
- Updated MOU and Provider Information Form—Starting next month we will be updating all provider agreements and sending you a Provider Information Form (PIF) based on your closure calendar, published rates, and facility information. Those will be sent via DocuSign for your review and signature.
- Updated Maximum Reimbursement Rates—Rate increase effective October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Childcare for Service Industry Recovery—TWC recently approved funding to provide 12 months of childcare for Service Industry Recovery (please see PowerPoint for details on eligibility requirements). Link to SIR Application: [https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/sir\\_child\\_care\\_enrollment](https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/sir_child_care_enrollment)

Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)—Workforce Solutions recently received funding from the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers (please see PowerPoint for details on eligibility requirements). Link to Interest Form:

[https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/childcare\\_for\\_essential\\_workers\\_interest](https://wfscapitalareacom-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/childcare_for_essential_workers_interest)

Business Coaching Available—The Texas Workforce Commission has launched a FREE business coaching program in partnership with AVANCE, Curantis Group, and Civitas Strategies Early Start to support child care providers with strategies to stabilize and strengthen your business. The Texas Child Care Coaching Team is providing free assistance to any child care provider in the state (please see PowerPoint and attached flyers). To sign up for free business coaching, please complete this form: <https://share.hsforms.com/1aBnjeB1DQsOjT7apLSSkUAbwix>

Early Childhood Career Fair—We are hosting a job fair for all Early Childhood Programs on Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am-3pm. There is both an in-person and a virtual option



happening simultaneously. In-person will be held at Workforce Solutions Capital Area. You can do both and bring your laptop to chat with virtual participants. Our partners from the career team can help you set up a virtual booth and help you with any questions you might have.

Participate in-person: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/capital-area-early-childhood-career-fair-tickets-181342760077> Participate virtually:

<https://wfscapitalareacareerexpo.getyourbooth.com/childcare>

- Child Care Availability Portal—This tool was developed by TWC to help connect families to available child care in their communities. It is very user friendly and we will be replacing our provider lists on our website with the use of the availability portal.
- Quality Initiatives Update—training opportunities are posted and live. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/workforce-solutions-capital-area-17751711191>. Upcoming trainings include TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly), SIDS, Shaken Baby, and Brain Development (offered in both English and Spanish), and TRS overview (November 9<sup>th</sup>). TRS Directors Meeting first Thursday of every month. Next meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Site Data forms were sent last week, please return those no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are starting assessments in October. You will hear from your assessor prior to your visit to collect required paperwork.
- BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

**\*\*PowerPoint Presentation attached**

#### **Madison Mattise with United Way present:**

- Pre-K Partnerships—Please see PowerPoint attached.
- Link to the video shared: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/video/the-right-direction/?fbclid=IwAR2VM5P1jwJ5VY70GC4IcSc5LsF38TJk9BvEK1ipoQSOEgIhgGQqFzRjQk>

**\*\*PowerPoint Presentation attached**

#### **Chloe Picot-Jacobs with Austin Child Guidance present:**

- Infant/Early Childhood Program Services—Please see flyers attached (one for center directors, one for teachers, and one for parents).
- You can contact Chloe directly at [cpicot-jacobs@austinchildguidance.org](mailto:cpicot-jacobs@austinchildguidance.org) or 512-451-2242 if she can support your centers.

#### **Cathy McHorse with United Way:**

- Shared Services—City of Austin allocated funding for the implementation of shared services. Looking for a co-design team to design what the vision would be for Austin. You should have



filled out a survey back in August for what you would like to see. Next Steps—there is a webinar on October 7<sup>th</sup> to share the results of the survey and answer questions. Register for the webinar here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuce-upzkiG9ClovievpP3PLEuVlytPmeT> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

#### **Open Discussion:**

- Stacy S—will the CCDF enrollment being on hold right now will that affect families that are being recertified? For CCDF the answer is no, it will not affect families in any way that are currently receiving services.
- Stacy S—is there an actual person to contact about the career fair? Yes, you can contact Lee Pendleton at [lee.pendleton@wfscapitalarea.com](mailto:lee.pendleton@wfscapitalarea.com) or 512-597-7196.
- Stacy S—I know sometimes WFS will have money where they can provide items for TRS centers once a year and we request certain things. I would like to just put out there that it would be great to be able to get gloves for teachers. I've heard that a lot of centers do not provide them for their staff and a lot of them do, but gloves have gone up in price. Can WFS help providers with that? Nicole—it is duly noted...Elaine S—Kim Paper has assisted some providers with this.
- Maria M—who can I contact to get end dates for authorized children? Nicole—you can email Quinton directly and he can get you connected.

**Next Meeting: October 28<sup>th</sup>**