



## Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

October 28, 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 affected (whole school, certain classrooms, number 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.
- Updated MOU and Provider Information Form—We are currently 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 was effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure to check your November 5<sup>th</sup> billing to ensure it is accurate. This is the first payment going out where all units should be at the higher reimbursement rate. Your new rates will be reflected on the new MOU/PIF that will be sent out. Even if you have not signed your MOU yet you will still be paid at the higher rate. If you notice any discrepancies please contact us.
- 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). True attendance will be collected and tracked, so if any children are enrolled at your centers with this funding you will be asked to submit attendance on a monthly basis. 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>
- 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), Preparing for Emergencies, and TRS



overview (November 9). TRS Directors Meeting first Thursday of every month. Next meeting will be held on November 4. TRS Assessments have started. We have completed several assessments and are continuing to plan. 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**

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

- Just a reminder that City of Austin has an Early Childhood Council and we meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 8:30pm - 10pm and we would like for you to come. Link: <https://www.austintexas.gov/content/early-childhood-council>. There is also a community engagements and partnerships group that meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month via zoom at 3:30pm. Contact Eliza Gordon at [BC-Eliza.Gordon@austintexas.gov](mailto:BC-Eliza.Gordon@austintexas.gov) for the zoom link. You can share with that work group and they can bring it to the council if you can't make the council meeting.
- Final call for the shared services co-design team. There is a self-nomination form you can fill out if you are interested. Link to form: <https://forms.gle/xemp4psYAQ3PDZUy6>

#### **POLL—5 short questions, please fill out:**

- Is this meeting beneficial to you? **100% Yes**
- How often do you want to meet? **Majority answered Monthly**
- Meet virtually, in person, or hybrid? **44% Virtually, 0% In Person, 56% Hybrid**
- Are the number of notifications about the meeting sufficient? **94% Yes, 6% No**
- Is the time of the meeting still working best for you? **100% Yes**

#### **Open Discussion:**

- Maria M—Are Austin Code employee's considered essential workers? Specifically, a Code Compliance Officer. Quinton said to send him details and we can figure it out.
- Patsy H—How long will care be extended for City of Austin Essential Workers? Quinton said one year of childcare will be provided and if funding is still available at the end of it we will hopefully be able to enroll and additional year.
- Colin S—Can currently authorized parents switch to SIR funding or apply for SIR when they come up for reauthorization? Quinton answered that it is a little tricky because SIR is only available for 12 months and there is no continuity of care so at the end of it the care will end. They would lose their spot for CCDF if they did that. Anyone on the waitlist can apply for SIR funding though.

**\*\*No Meeting in November\*\***

**Next Meeting: December 30, 2021**