



Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2022

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

No announcements at this time.

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- WFS Capital Area and Austin Public Health COVID-19 PPE Distribution—In partnership with Austin Public Health, we are pleased to distribute PPE items at no cost to Early Learning Programs on Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5. Time slots for pick up are still available and you can register through our Eventbrite page by the end of the day on February 25. Link to register:
- COVID Closures—If you have to close due to COVID or bad weather, please be sure to let us know. Please send your license number, 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 Please connect with parents and encourage regular attendance. Complete the form for each family you are reporting.
- Supplemental Payments—December 2021, TWC continued the 20% supplemental payments that started during COVID. The retroactive supplemental payment for October, November, and most of December was posted at the end of January. This only applies to families that are funded by TWC.
- 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). Enrollment is ending soon. Link to SIR Application: 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
- Child Care Relief Fund 2022-Application Process—there will be about three times more funding available than there was in 2021. An invitation to apply will be sent out via the email on file with CCR soon. You can update your information with CCR here: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care/ppFacilityLogin.asp TWC put together a document about how you can prepare for the upcoming Child Care Relief Fund. You can view the document here:

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to persons with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) / 711 (Voice). www.wfscapitalarea.com



<https://www.childcare.texas.gov/preparing-for-the-child-care-relief-fund?hsLang=en>

Instead of one lump sum the funding will be spread out over a number of months. You can use the calculator to find out what you could receive here: <https://www.childcare.texas.gov/2022-ccrf-calculator>. A suggestion for the use of funds is to help with staffing, more information here:

<https://f.hubspotusercontent30.net/hubfs/19993137/pdf/CC%20Workforce%20Support%20-%20Provider%20Decision%20Tool.pdf> Here is a link for additional information on the Child Care Relief Fund 2022: www.twc.texas.gov/programs/child-care-relief-funding

- T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Available—For staff that are seeking to obtain their CDA or a degree. Please see the PowerPoint for eligibility criteria. You can find more information on their website at: <https://www.texasaeyc.org/programs/teach> or email them at teach@texasaeyc.org
- 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), First in-person training, Supporting Children with Sensory Processing Issues on March 5th. Jeanette Watson Wage Supplement Project applications are being accepted through March 4th. You can apply here: <https://www.wfscapitalarea.com/our-services/childcare/for-providers/>. TRS Directors Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month. The next one will be on Thursday March 3. TRS assessments have resumed, and a survey will be going out soon to see what the comfort level is for programs.
- 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>
- City of Austin Child Care Staffing Pulse Survey—Austin Public Health, Travis County, Workforce Solutions Capital Area, and United Way for Greater Austin have launched the Child Care Staffing Pulse Survey to better understand the scope and scale of the current staffing challenges experienced by child care providers and learn the impact staffing shortages may be having on the local community. Please respond to the survey here by Sunday March 6th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECEStaffing22>
- BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

****PowerPoint Presentation attached**

Open Discussion:

- Colin S—We appreciate the excel format so much! Thank you!
- Tessa F—Will the JW wage supplement and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship be available to programs in Williamson County as well? Logan said the JW wage supplement is only for those in Travis

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to persons with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) / 711 (Voice). www.wfscapitalarea.com



County, however, the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship is available to those programs in Williamson County as well.

- Colin S—we have some parents that are doing reauthorization and they have been emailing their full applications to the general CCS email and CCing us on it and some are saying they are being denied because they are being told they aren't being received. Nicole said to email her and Logan a list of those parents being affected and we can look into it and follow up.

Next Meeting: March 31, 2022

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to persons with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) / 711 (Voice). www.wfscapitalarea.com