



## Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2022

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and Baker Ripley staff introductions.

### Announcements:

- **Cathy McHorse** – Great opportunity for providers, their staff and families to provide feedback and suggestions on investments via the Travis County Community Survey being circulated. There is also an option to request for child care to be a priority concern. Link to survey: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/news/2022/2216-travis-county-invites-residents-to-complete-2022-community-survey>

### Logan DeCleene with Baker Ripley present:

- **Child Care Availability Portal** – As we begin enrolling children it is recommended that you update your status within the portal as parents will be referred to this resource. Link to update your portal: <http://childcare.bowtiebi.com/texaschildcareform>
- **Provider Services Team** – Survey to go out soon regarding classrooms, how many, staffing issues. Also, an email will go out regarding QA training which will occur the third Thursday of each month.
- **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 affected (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. Complete the form for each family you are reporting.
- **Child Care Relief Fund 2022** – An invitation to apply has been sent out by CCR. Check your junk mail folder if you haven't noticed it. Applications will be accepted until May 31. You may reach out for Technical Assistance 3-ways: [CCRReliefFund@trelliscompany.org](mailto:CCRReliefFund@trelliscompany.org) or 1-833-613-3192 or [childcare.texas.gov](http://childcare.texas.gov). Live agents available Mon-Fri 7am-6:30pm and Sat 8am-12:30pm. TWC offering Interactive QA sessions by experienced business coaches.
- **Child Care for Service Industry Recovery** – Enrollment for this program has officially closed.
- **Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)** – Currently enrolling for the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers (please see Power Point 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

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](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com)



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)

- **T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships Available** – For staff seeking to obtain their CDA or a degree. Please see the PowerPoint for eligibility criteria. Additional funds are available for Austin residents. You can find more information on their website at: <http://texasaeyc.org/programs/teach> or email them at [teach@texasaeyc.org](mailto:teach@texasaeyc.org).
- **Quality Initiatives Updates** – Training opportunities both virtual and in-person are posted and live. 2021-2022 training calendar has been posted to [www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com). TRS Directors Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 7 from 12pm-2pm or 6pm-8pm. TRS assessments have resumed.
- **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/1aBnjeB1DQsOjT7apLSSkUAbwisx>
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

**\*\*PowerPoint Presentation Attached\*\***

#### **Open Discussion:**

- **Hung – Child Care Relief Fund Grant:** If you have not received the grant invitation application email reach out to TWC Technical Assistance (emails were sent out on March 21)
- **Maria Marquez – CCR Issues:** She is experiencing some issues with issues with CCR. Logan D. advised providers to continue to try to contact CCR if they are having any issues. If they do not receive a response and are really struggling, they are welcome to reach out to WFS and we may try to see what we can do to get in contact with them.
- **Cathy McHorse – Texas Early Learning Council:** Next meeting scheduled for Friday, April 1 from 11am to 1pm (CT) (Accepting public comment and testimony)

**Next Meeting: April 28, 2022**