

Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

Welcome Cris Perez-Riddel—new BakerRipley Childcare Program Director

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- **May Referral Email**—be on the lookout for your May referral email. We are asking for additional information on your current staffing challenges. We would like to get some numbers to take back and assist you in finding and keeping staff.
- **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://wfscapitalarea.com-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 Availability Portal – it is currently unavailable through the end of May.** 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> beginning in June, you should be able to update the portal again.
- **Provider Services will be having a Q&A training every 3rd Thursday of the Month**
- **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 basis. Link to Interest Form: https://wfscapitalarea.com-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/childcare_for_essential_workers interest.
- **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 **5/31/22**. You may reach out for Technical Assistance 3-ways: CCRReliefFund@trelliscompany.org or 1-833-613-3192 or 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.
- **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/1aBnjeB1DQsOJT7aplLSSkUAbwisx>
- **Early Childhood Texas: Resources for Raising Kids**—The Texas Workforce Commission has partnered with multiple state agencies to launch a new website to streamline early childhood

information for parents and caregivers in Texas. The Early Childhood Texas website is a one-stop-shop to access information about programs and resources available from the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Department of State Health Services, and Texas Health and Human Services Commission. For more information visit www.earlychildhood.texas.gov

- **Teacher TRAC**—grant between WFS, Travis County and City of Austin to increase the number of professionally trained teachers. The program helps them go back to school and earn a degree. Requirements/Qualifications: teachers and directors currently working in a child care center, hourly wage is less than or equal to \$20/hour, at least 6 months experience working directly with young children with 3 months at current center, and must work in a licensed center or family home that has a contract to accept using subsidies. There is no residency requirement. Benefits: tuition for one course each semester, textbook loans, assistance with course selection, class enrollment, and educational guidance, financial incentive paid upon successful completion of first course and after each successful completion of 12 hours of college credit in a Child Development Degree plan, and ongoing support and advising by the department throughout your college experience. For more information visit: <https://education.austincc.edu/childdev/trac-scholarships/> and if you have questions, please email: rmcgough@austincc.edu
- **Quality Initiatives Updates – In-Person Training is back!** Training opportunities both virtual and in-person are posted and live. 2021-2022 training calendar has been posted to www.wfscapitalarea.com. Upcoming Trainings posted through May for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Adults Need Play, Too! (May 21st, in person) TRS Directors Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is on Thursday, May 5th from 12pm-2pm or 6pm-8pm. TRS assessments have resumed.
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Open Discussion:

Hung—question about essential workers—parent started a job and had a baby, can she apply? As soon as she is employed and considered as working in the industry she can apply. She would go and complete the interest form. Then we will outreach and ask for additional information. You can assist her as the provider, but the parent will need to complete it.

Chuck—one year is almost up for some families (for Essential Workers funding), can they apply for an extension? Depending on funding and enrollments we might be able to continue under that funding, but we will make sure they don't get displaced.

Turnaround time for the Essential Workers program? Not instant—once they have done the interest form it varies on funding and workload, but typically will be outreached within a few months.

Does Teacher TRAC have classes for Spanish only? Not at the moment, but something they are talking about doing.

Maria—last day to submit application (Teacher TRAC) for Spring 2022? I was under the assumption Spring courses have started? Logan will check on this and confirm dates for Spring and Fall.

Sharon—is there a fall deadline (Teacher TRAC)? Logan is going to check.

Chuck—for BA does it have to be in Early Childhood (Teacher TRAC)? Yes, degree has to be in Early Childhood.

Carlos—have some families that say they are approved from WFS and we haven't heard from WFS yet. How long does it take? Logan—just send parents our information and they can contact us to see where they are in the process. It usually doesn't take too long.

Tessa—if I only have a TTH spot open can a parent enroll via CCS and then take a MWF spot at another center? Logan—I am pretty sure we cannot split care between 2 different centers due to payment (our system doesn't allow this) can transfer to other centers for school holidays and summer care though.

Carlos—what about the program you talked about last meeting? Frog street? Gathered information and we will reach out to programs in early May and then move forward. Information will be coming soon and next TRS directors meeting will have more information.

Nicole—would like to take a poll again to make sure these meetings are meaningful for you. Results from the poll:

- Are these meetings beneficial? **Yes**
- How often? **Monthly**
- How would you prefer to attend? **Virtually**
- Is the number of notifications about the meetings sufficient? **Yes**
- Is the time of the meetings still working best? **Yes**

Sharon—so many funds are projected to go to so many providers and some will not apply, will leftover funds be sent to those that did apply? Nicole—they are using a scale and any funding leftover they will repurpose them like they have in the past.

Next Meeting: May 26, 2022