



**Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2022**

**Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.**

**Announcements: None**

**TWC Presents on Pre-K Partnerships:**

- **Pre-K Partnership Goals**—Generate interest in pre-k partnerships; increase the number of school districts, charter schools, and child care programs participating in formal pre-k partnerships
- **Pre-K Partnerships**—Collaboration between a lead education agency pre-k program and one or more quality-rated child care programs to provide high quality care and education to eligible three and four year old children
- **Purpose**—Expand opportunities for families; open communication between LEA and CCP to align resources and services; build school readiness for children and continuity of care for families; help LEA meet full-day pre-k requirement; serve more eligible students; and open new streams of funding
- **Getting Started**—Child care programs school districts/charter schools can complete the interest form: [https://twcearlylearning.force.com/prekpartnerships/s/?language=en\\_US](https://twcearlylearning.force.com/prekpartnerships/s/?language=en_US)
- Contact [prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov](mailto:prekpartnerships@twc.texas.gov) or visit <https://www.childcare.texas.gov/prek-partnerships> for more information

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

**Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:**

- **COVID Closures**—if you are closed due to COVID please be sure to let us know.
- **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](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**—Now through the end of May, the Child Care Availability Portal will rely on information gathered through the Child Care Relief Fund to remain updated. Programs can update the portal again beginning in June.
- **Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)**— **\*NEW\* Families must live in Travis County (includes residents living outside of the COA full purpose boundary) and WFS will be reaching out to those families that were denied previously for that reason.** 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](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](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. If you plan on helping families with tuition assistance or PSOC with the funding, please let us know.

- **Stats and Information Regarding the Child Care Relief Fund 2022**—TWC sent out 683 invitations to providers in Capital Area to apply for the relief grants. 400 out of 546 Licensed Child Care Centers have applied and 392 have been approved with an average award amount of \$443,012. 43 out of 77 Licensed Child Care Homes have applied and 40 have been approved with an average award amount of \$40,084. 26 out of 60 Registered Child Care Homes have applied and 24 have been approved with an average award amount of \$36,351. Just under 70% of the potentially eligible providers in our area have applied with 97% being approved.  
**\*REMINDER\*--the funds from the Child Care Relief Grants can be used for:**
  - Payroll and personnel costs
  - Rent, mortgage, insurance, and utilities
  - Facilities maintenance
  - PPE and cleaning supplies
  - Equipment and supplies (indoor and outdoor)
  - Tuition assistance and co-payments for families (if you decide to provide this type of assistance, please notify WFS)
- **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](http://www.earlychildhood.texas.gov)
- **T.E.A.C.H.—new city of Austin incentives (see PowerPoint)**
- **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](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com). Upcoming Trainings posted through May for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Honoring Diversity: A Framework for Understanding Differences (June 11th, Zoom), Blast Off Science (June 18th, In-person). TRS Directors Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting is on Thursday, June 2 from 12pm-2pm or 6pm-8pm. TRS assessments have resumed. Director/Teacher Symposium will be coming up August 5 and 6. We are hoping to offer a hybrid model and have in person as well as virtual option. More details on that in the next few weeks.
- **Contracted Slots Update**—Workforce Solutions Capital Area recognizes that it is a tremendous opportunity and remain fully committed to exploring the option for our area. We have been focused on other initiatives that we've had, but we are still very interested in what that will look like for our area. We will provide updates as they come up.



- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

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

**Open Discussion:**

Chuck C—essential workers program year is up—can they extend their care? If they are nearing their 12 months, we will look at funding and could extend it. Will approach it individually and it's dependent on funding.

Davida C—encourage families to go ahead and fill out all paperwork when they are on the waiting list? Yes, they should go ahead.

Dawn L—tuition assistance for families, can be any family or does it have to be CCS families? Can be any family. Dawn also said she applied for the grant on April 26<sup>th</sup> and they have been approved, but haven't received anything. Should I reach out and check or be patient? Go ahead and reach out—it wouldn't hurt.

Chuck C—regarding the child care expansion initiative, tried to get on the webinar the other day and couldn't it was limited to 100 participants if we are unable to get on is there a recording that can be shared? Nicole will try to find out and share out. Logan shared website for more information and Cathy shared that the recording from Tuesday's meeting is on the website.

Davida C—already participating in pre-k partnerships—what does this mean for me? Just keep doing what you are doing. The TWC Pre-K Partnerships are just an expansion of the work already being done.

Can you give an example of a partnership and what does that look like for providers? Since this is a brand-new initiative and team and we are just getting started in our work we don't have any current partnerships we can share. But we can say that children will remain at the child care provider—it is really just layering services so that we can draw down the additional funding.

Are there avenues already carved out for the certification for teachers? We are still working through details. They can choose a program to suit their needs if it's on the list from TEA approved then TWC will pay up to \$7000.

**Next Meeting: June 30, 2022**