

Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2022

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Nicole Jarrette-Peat from UW gives Shared Services Update:

- Design team established to develop recommendations for building and launching a shared service alliance.

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- **COVID Closures**—have seen an uptick of COVID cases. If you need to close a classroom or the entire program, please let our Provider Services department know. You only need to report the closure if it will impact our CCS 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://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**—the Child Care Availability Portal is available again and able to be updated by Early Learning Programs. Please take time to update your program's information with your latest enrollment availability.
- **Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)**— ***NEW* Families living in Travis County (outside of the COA full purpose boundary)**, meet the income guidelines, have child under the age of 5 and have at least one parent working in a category above (see slides). Families living in the COA full purpose boundary may enroll children under 13 years of age. Families must select a TRS quality rated center with this program. Providers are asked to provide true attendance for any child enrolled in this program. 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. We have currently outreached all families that were affected by the change. Focus is on children 5 and under but will serve older siblings as well. Income guidelines changed and are effective June 15th (see slides).
- **Child Care Expansion Initiative**—Coming Soon! The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is offering start-up funding to support three goals—the expansion of child care in areas of the state that lack sufficient child care capacity, the additional supply of child care for infants, and child care created in partnership with employers. The Commission approved \$75 million to increase the number of high-quality child care providers for working parents, including these new start-up grants. Please see slides for eligibility guidelines and how you can apply.

- **Skills for Small Business Program**—Through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Skills for Small Business program, up to \$2 million from the Skills Development Fund is dedicated to small employers. Small businesses can apply to TWC for training offered by their local community or technical college, or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). Please see slides for more information.
- **WFS Capital Area 2022 Director/Teacher Symposium—August 5-6th at the Thompson Conference Center. Registration open soon! Limits on spots...200 spots for Directors and 450 for teachers. No cost for the symposium—completely FREE. Will get about 6 hours of training. Parking is limited so encourage staff to carpool.**
- **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 July for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Keeping it Cool, in Afterschool (July 12th, Zoom) and Assessments: Diving deeper for equity in practice (July 23rd, in-person). TRS Directors Meetings are on pause while we work on Texas Rising Star Assessments. Our next TRS Director meeting will be in September.
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Open Discussion:

Maria M—Are there limits on centers or first come first serve for the symposium? No limits, first come first serve.

Colin S—we regularly have questions about or issues with CPS (i.e. non CCS) funding authorizations. Is there a central contact email or phone for questions? Sometimes the CPS case workers are not able to address those questions. Logan—No specific caseworker that only handles CPS cases, please email Logan and he will make sure the appropriate person gets with you to answer.

Next Meeting: There will not be a July meeting, next meeting will be August 25th