



Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2022

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Nicole Jarrette-Peat from United Way gives Shared Services Update:

- Launching our Shared Services Alliance in October and would love if you are interested to fill out an interest form here: <https://forms.gle/eogR3FCfiHmBKoJM8>
- Free laptops for the first 20 providers that join
- Free access to Bright Wheel

Kim Griffin from WFS Business Services:

- Hire and Recruit, job fair and hiring event, train and retain
- Job Fair on August 30
- You can contact Kim at kim.griffin@wfscapitalarea.com or 512-223-5441 for more information.
- (Question) Hung—how long does the process take if we request—if you do a reverse referral, it is a lot faster and depends if we have an applicant that is available for that particular job—could take up to 3 weeks before you have a placement. Hung—email you the job requirements? Yes, email job description and open position and will send over agreement. Getting a Work in Texas account set up is the first step.

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley presents:

- **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-xzivi.formstack.com/forms/childcare_for_essential_workers. Income guidelines have changed and are effective June 15 (see slides).
- **Annual Updates**—all programs will be receiving an email from ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com over the coming months with information about annual closure day updates. Please make sure your contact information is up to date.
- **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->



[xivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences](http://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 Expansion Initiative—Now accepting applications!** 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.
- **Birth Beginning at Birth**—a new statewide initiative that provides young children birth to age 4 and their families access to books and resources to support the development of early literacy skills and foster a love of reading. This grant is funded through the Texas Reading Initiative-Birth to Kinder of the Texas Education Agency. Please see slides for more information.
- **Free Texas Annual Training Available Now!**—in partnership with TWC, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s Promoting Early Education Quality program is offering a suite of twelve online courses for FREE.
- **Texas Rising Star Requirements for All Program Coming October 1**—as of October 1, 2022 all Early Learning Programs contracted with Child Care Services must meet TRS Entry Level Designation. This includes Licensed or Registered by CCR, Not on Corrective Action with CCR, and Have 75 or fewer total point when CCR history is reviewed (High Deficiencies=5 points each, Medium-High Deficiencies=3 points each). Programs that meet Entry Level Designation will be given a deadline of September 30, 2024, to be certified as at least a Texas Rising Star Two-Star Program. A Texas Rising Star Mentor will be assigned to assist programs with meeting requirements. TWC will be having a webinar on Tuesday August 30 from 6-7pm via Zoom. The webinar will be recorded for those unable to attend.
- **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. Upcoming Trainings posted through September for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Family and Educator Partnerships: We’re Better Together (September 10 on Zoom) and Trauma Informed Care & Adverse Childhood Experiences (September 17 in person). Our TRS Directors Meetings will resume in September. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 1 at 12pm and 6pm. Parent Training Classes are also being offered beginning Tuesday, August 30.
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****



Open Discussion:

Hung—if we got certified in October for TRS will we have another visit this October? Logan—Annual monitoring will be conducted (will not be full assessment) and we will look to begin those in October. Look for communication in the next month.

Colin—feedback about communication...WFS has implemented a process for when we send in a question to the general inbox and it becomes an issue number and when caseworkers respond we can't track what they are responding to because it isn't tied to the issue number. Logan—we will look into that, thank you for the feedback. Colin—Tracking 2450's and authorizations—trying to track down some 2450's and can't reach anyone to help confirm authorization in a timely way so wanted touch base to see if there's anything we need to do. Cris—email me with a list of those you need and we can try to use that spreadsheet to communicate status of authorizations.

Next Meeting: September 29, 2022