



Provider Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, September 29th, 2022

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and Baker Ripley staff introductions.

Announcements:

- **Nicole Robinson** – Upcoming Program Rule Changes (Chapter 809): TWC has implemented several rule changes. Some rules are effective 10/3/22 and others will be implemented in the near future (Please refer to Power Point slides and/or video recording for specifics).

Logan DeCleene with Baker Ripley presents:

- **Texas Rising Star Program** – As of 10/3/22 all Early Learning Programs contracted with Child Care Services must meet Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation. Programs will work to become certified as at least a Texas Rising Star Two-Star program by September 30th, 2024. Many resources and supports are available to programs working toward TRS Certification. Including a TRS Mentor. As of this meeting, 100% of all Capital Area providers are eligible for TRS Entry Level Designation!
- **Child Care for Essential Workers** - 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. ****NEW**** Families living in Travis County (outside of the COA full purpose boundary) may now be eligible.
- **Early Learning Program Updates** –
 - Annual Updates: All programs to receive an email over the next coming months with information about annual closure day updates. Please ensure your contact information is up to date. Email: ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com with updates.
 - Provider Growth Payment Updates: After the payments for the service month of September 2022, the additional 20% provider growth payment will end. Please review your payments as the fiscal year ends and email ccsfinance@wfscapitalarea.com with any issues or questions.
 - Reporting Absences: All programs are asked to report each time a child has 5 consecutive absences. Online link to report: https://wfscapitalarea.com-xzivj.formstack.com/forms/providers_submit_excessive_absences.
 - Child Care Availability Portal: The portal is available and able to be updated by Early Learning Programs. Please take the time to update your program's information with your latest enrollment availability. We are actively enrolling



and refer parents to the portal for provider availability. Programs with openings will go to the top of the search query. Link to update your portal:

<http://childcare.bowtiebi.com/texaschildcareform>

- **Seeking Interviews for Non-Traditional Hours** – Urban Institute is currently looking for child care providers and parents to participate in interviews to learn more about working parents' opinions on child care during non-traditional hours (nights, weekends, etc.). The first 20 people who they hear from who are eligible will receive a \$50 gift card. Link to contact form: <https://bit.ly/TravisCountyProvider>
- **Child Care Expansion Initiative – Now Accepting Applications** – Funding is available for child care centers and home-based providers opening or expanding capacity after March 1, 2022 (Child Care Deserts, In Partnership with an employer or consortium of employers, and/or to serve infants (0-17 month) across the state.
- **Child Care Workforce Support Series** - Brand new series of eight webinars and accompanying written guides featuring best practices on topics such as: Attracting best talent, hiring and vetting a candidate, onboarding guide for new employees, offering competitive compensation and many more. Resources and videos can be found at www.childcare.texas.gov.
- **Free Texas Annual Training Available Now** – Suite of twelve online courses, aligned with the annual professional development requirements from Minimum Standards, for FREE for early childhood professionals in Texas. Trainees can earn up to 20 clock hours via the Texas Annual Training category on the AgriLife Learning Platform.
- **Training Opportunities** – Check out our Eventbrite page and never miss a training!
 - 2021-2022 Training Calendar is posted on our website (www.wfscapitalarea.com). Upcoming trainings posted through October includes: TRS Category Trainings, Greeting Circles & TRS Orientation.
 - Texas Rising Star Director Meetings will continue in October. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 6th, at 12:00pm and 6:00pm.

****Power Point Presentation Attached****

Next Meeting: October 27th, 2022