

Provider Advisory Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2023

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and BakerRipley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- **Inclusion Program**—goals of the inclusion program are to reduce expulsions and suspensions, improve the continuity of care, and facilitate academic achievement. Contact Christina Conrad, Family and Community Engagement Supervisor at christina.conrad@wfscapitalarea.com or Melissa Hernandez, Inclusion Specialist at melissa.hernandez@wfscapitalarea.com *See slides for more information
- **5th CCRF Payments**—Eligible providers will be sent their 5th payment in the Summer of 2023. Eligible providers do not have to apply or submit any documentation to receive a 5th CCRF Payment.
- **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.
- **Please Report When a Child Stops Attending**—we encourage programs to report when a child stops attending their facility.
- **Summer is coming**—summer rates will start soon just be on the lookout for information coming from Provider Services.
- **Texas Child Care Connection (TxC3)**—TWC and partnership with KinderSystems have created the new child care case management system for child care services for the 28 Workforce Development Boards across Texas. This new system will be rolled out in 2 phases (Automated Attendance and Case Management). Phase 1 (Automated Attendance) will be rolled out May 17, 2023. Training webinars are scheduled to begin the week of April 24th with KinderSystems training staff. Phase 2 (Case Management) is planned to launch October 1, 2023. Be on the lookout for correspondence from TWC and KinderSystems.
- **Waitlist Status Now Available On Our Website!**—our website now lists enrollment status, current estimated waitlist time, and the date of our last enrollment outreach.
- **Stay Covered Texas**—The state of Texas has begun the process of rechecking Medicaid eligibility for about 2.7 million Texas women and children who currently receive Medicaid coverage. Visit staycoveredtx.org for resources and information for families going through this process.
- **Texas Rising Star PREP**—WFS Capital Area Mentors will help you achieve TRS Certification by supporting you through evaluation and enhancement of our **Procedures** while building **Relationships** based on **Equity** and developmentally appropriate **Practice**. Have broken providers up into cohorts. If you have not received the email to complete the survey, please let us know. All Capital Area Entry Level Designated programs should have completed the following Survey: <https://forms.gle/KKTuGKKioJd5ERxU9>

- **United Way of Greater Austin Cost Model Survey**—Measuring the true cost of services like child care can better inform policymakers about your needs and advocate for additional funding to support your work. \$100 electronic gift card will be provided to programs who submit a completed survey on time! There is also a Funding Opportunity for a Nontraditional Hour Care Grant. This is to support child care providers in Travis County to expand their service into nontraditional hours (early mornings and evenings or weekends). The grant application is open from April 17th through May 1st. If you have questions you can contact Margo Kinneberg at margo.kinneberg@uwatx.org
- **A Day Without Child Care**—save the date for the second annual A Day Without Child Care, Monday, May 8, 2023. There is also a weekly meet and greet on Tuesdays from 6-8pm via Zoom.
- **Special Scholarship for City of Austin and Travis County**—Texas AEYC and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Texas have scholarships available to pursue your CDA, Associate's, or Bachelor's.
- **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 FREE. Earn up to 20 clock hours .
- **Training Opportunities** —Check out our Eventbrite Page and never miss a training! 2022-2023 Training Calendar is available on Eventbrite now! Upcoming Trainings posted through May for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Mentoring for Success: Building Strong Teams (May 20th, in person) and TRS Orientation (May 11th, via Zoom). Our TRS Directors Meetings are ongoing. Next meeting will be Thursday, May 4th, at 12pm and 6pm. Free Monthly CPR/First Aid classes are now available! (AED Machines available to programs who participate).
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts**—Please see PowerPoint for contact information

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Open Discussion:

Chuck C—does Child Care regulations require another operating permit for a center to provide nights and weekends care in addition to our normal schedule? **No just update your hours of operation.**

Chuck C—are the CCS reimbursement rates higher for a NAEYC accredited center that is not yet in TRS? **The rates are not different. Only TRS and Texas School Ready will have enhanced rates.**

Maria B—would this program help get a diagnosis (referring to the inclusion program)? **Would have to already have a diagnosis to participate in this program. We can make a referral to a place to get a diagnosis.**

Dawn L—what is required to be a local referral partner? **Being a TRS provider and going through a short orientation (about 15 minutes) and fill out a one-page contact form and we will send a referral form.**

Umang—what are the benefits to becoming a local referral partner? **Parents can be put in a higher priority group for services.**

Next Meeting: June 15, 2023