

Provider Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2023

Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board and Baker Ripley staff introductions.

Announcements: None

Logan DeCleene with BakerRipley present:

- **Early Learning Program Updates –**
 - **Annual Updates** – You should have received a request from the Provider Services team to send in your closure days and new rates. Please email ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com with updated information.
 - **Ages and Stages Developmental Screenings** – We are piloting the ASQ-3 Developmental Screening tool and will be making it available for both CCS Parents and Early Learning Programs contracted with Capital Area. Stay posted for more information to come very soon!
 - **Please Report Children no longer in care** – With the start of the new school year, we ask that you report if a child was attending your center and has left. Email ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com with any updates.
- **TX3C: Changes Coming January 2024 –**
 - **New Statewide Application For Families** – TX3C will include an online statewide application for parents who are applying to the Child Care Services (CCS) program. The application is web-based and mobile-device friendly.
 - **Child Attendance** – Your payments are not affected by a child's occasional absences – payment is based on the child care authorized. However, a child's eligibility may be affected if they are not consistently attending care. Providers must **ensure parents record attendance** directly in TX3C or through a child care management system that uploads CCS attendance data to TX3C. More information about the attendance tracking system is available at <https://tx3c.info>.
 - **Expanded Age Groups** – A new state law requires TWC to match age groups for provider payments with Child Care Regulation age groups. TX3C will support this change in the new year. You will be able to designate rates for more age groups, as demonstrated in the following table.

Current Age Groups		New Age Groups	
Infant:	0–17 months	Infant-0:	0–11 months
		Infant-1:	12–17 months
Toddler:	18 months–2 years	Toddler-1:	18–23 months
		Toddler-2:	2 years
Preschool:	3–5 years	Preschool-3:	3 years
		Preschool-4:	4 years
		Preschool-5:	5 years
School Age:	6–13 years	School Age:	6–13 years (no changes for this age group)

Workforce Solutions Capital Area will request updated rates from programs prior to this change taking effect.

- **Improvements to Provider Payments: NEW: Advance Payments** – Beginning in 2024, Workforce Solutions Capital Area will pay providers for authorized child care before care is provided (similar to private-paying families that pay tuition beforehand). The following are details on these prospective payments:
 1. Payments will cover two-week periods; you will be paid for the days that a child has been authorized to attend your program.
 2. If you receive an overpayment for a child whose authorization changes or ends during a period for which payment has been made, we may adjust a future payment.
 3. TX3C will determine each child's age group based on the first day of the two-week billing cycle.
 4. TX3C will base the prospective payment on the provider's location (Board area), rather than the child's residence. The change will ensure that payments reflect the market rates and costs where the provider operates.
- **Standardized Parent Share of Cost** – Beginning in 2024, parent fees will be standardized for all board areas across the state. For Capital Area we believe that this will result in a decrease in the parent fee amounts for families receiving scholarships. More information to come.

For more information on TX3C please visit <https://tx3c.info>, email at supportTX@kindersystems.com or call 1-888-265-6461 (Support staff available Monday through Friday from 6:00am to 9:00pm Central Time).

- **Texas Rising Star Centralized Assessment Entity (CAE) to take over September 1st** – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) recently awarded a contract for a new centralized assessment entity for Texas Rising Star. Starting on September 1st, the Children's Learning Institute (CLI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston will begin statewide management of all Texas Rising Star assessments.
 - TWC will continue to provide oversight for the Texas Rising Star program.
 - Local Boards will still provide mentoring support.
 - CLI will administer assessments through the centralized assessment entity.

Should you have any questions at this time, please feel free to contact CLI at caes@cliengage.atlassian.net

- **Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation Reminder: Must Meet TRS Screening Form After 18 Months** – If an Entry Level-Designated program is not eligible for star-level certification in Texas Rising Star by the 18th month, the program may not receive CCS referrals for new families until it attains star-level certification.

Deadline	Action
CCS Provider Agreement start date	Child care and early learning program must meet Entry Level designation eligibility.
No later than 12 months	Boards must screen programs for initial star-level certification.
18 months	If the program is not meeting Texas Rising Star certification criteria, no new family referrals may be made.
24 months	The program must achieve Texas Rising Star certification to continue providing CCS.

- **Texas Rising Star PREP** – Cohort invitations going out soon! WFS Capital Area Mentors will help you achieve TRS Certification by supporting you through evaluation and enhancement of your Procedures while building Relationships, based on Equity and developmentally appropriate Practice. Early learning programs will be invited to a cohort based on survey response, eligibility, interest, permit type, program size, and mentor availability, Email questions to: wfs.trs@wfscapitalarea.com.
- **Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey** – The Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing (TXICFW) and Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources (RMC), have undertaken the 2023 Texas Child Care Market Rate Survey. This report summarizes child care market rate data for the entire state of Texas and for each of its 28 local workforce development areas (LWDAs). See the Market Rate Final Report here: <https://utexas.app.box.com/s/88g4xjqew48t6xi0dm6yy4tcg0fl4g0v>
- **Assistance With the Texas Workforce Registry (TECPDS) Now Available** – Workforce Solutions Capital Area now has staff available to assist early learning programs with establishing accounts on the Texas Workforce Registry, commonly referred to as TECPDS. TECPDS accounts assists teachers with electronically storing all of their training documents and can significantly ease the paperwork that is required for Texas Rising Star certification. TECPDS can also help Directors quickly and easily provide training certificates for all staff attending in-house training. Submit an interest form here: <https://forms.gle/83XQAahbxQZ4H14P9>
- **Inclusion Assistance Available** – Workforce Solutions Capital Area has an Inclusion Specialist available to assist Early Learning Programs with CCS children needing additional assistance within the program. Please reach out to us before suspending or expelling a CCS child so that we can assist. All requests can be emailed to: ccs.support@wfscapitalarea.com.
- **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, aligned with the annual professional development requirements from the Minimum Standards, for FREE for early childhood professionals in Texas. Trainees can earn up to 20 clock hours. For more information: tx.ag/TexasAnnualTraining
- **Training Opportunities** – Check out our Eventbrite page and never miss a training! 2022-2023 Training calendar available on Eventbrite now! Upcoming Trainings posted through September for registration including: TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish), Active Play in Inclement Weather (**August 26th**, In-Person) and TRS Orientation (September 14th, via Zoom). TRS Director Meetings return in September - Next meeting will be September 7th (Noon and Evening). Free Monthly CPR/First Aid classes are now available! (AED Machines available to programs who participate). Next class will be September 19th (English and Spanish).
- **BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts** – Please see PowerPoint for contact information.
- **Pole was shared with all meeting attendees - Question: What topics would you like to see at future meetings?**

****PowerPoint Presentation Attached****

Open Discussion:

Q: Now that the Essential Worker Care has ended are there any options for Early Learning Teachers to receive child care assistance? Per Cris Perez, currently contract amendments with the City and County have been requested and are pending which would allow us to provide child care services to Child Care Workers. If approved, this may be implemented effective October 2023.

Q: When was the last outreach for enrollment and what was those families waitlist date? Per Cris Perez, our last outreach was done in March 2023 and included those on the waitlist from November 2022. Currently we do have a waitlist.

Q: Are there any enrollment outreaches planned? Per Cris Perez, there are no enrollment outreaches planned. However, with our local City and County agreements we are currently able to outreach those families who have identified as either experiencing homelessness or those who have children aged 0 to 3 years old.

***Future PAC meetings will be held quarterly in October '23, January '24, April '24 and July '24**