



Provider Advisory Council Meeting

04/18/2024

- **Welcome and Introductions of WFS Staff**
- **Special Guest: Kathy Keller, Directors of Professional Development, Together4Children—**

Kathy let us know about a wonderful Leadership opportunity that is available called the Texas Childcare Leadership Academy. The grant for this project is through TWC and Together4Children is delivering the training. This project started in 2020 and WFS Capital Area was one of the very first clusters to participate and we have been delivering this training across other boards. If you missed out on the first time you have a chance to join this time. This academy is for administrators (owner, director, assistant director) and is designed to increase administrators' capacity to lead their programs towards excellence. You should have received a post card in the mail from us about a week ago and then this past Monday you should have received an email. If you did not, you can still register to attend the meet and greet. The Meet and Greets will be April 30th and May 1st and you choose which one you want to attend, 11:30am-1:30pm. Go to the Together4Children website at www.together4children.org and register. Together4Children can only accept 30 qualified administrators into the program, and it is first come, first served. The program starts in May and will end in March 2025. You will develop a great comradery with your cohort, and you will get close and support one another. Classes are virtual and there are a few in person classes. At the completion there will be a big celebration. Up to 60 hours of training received. The cost is entirely FREE. If you are interested, please go to the website, and take time to watch the short inspirational video. Be sure to complete Step 1 eligibility form and register to one of the Meet and Greets. You can also reach Kathy at kathyk@together4children.org if you have any questions.
- **Child Care Services Dashboard—**We have served 4,264 unique children; we have agreements with 495 Early Learning Programs; 46% of our Early Learning Programs are quality rated; 67% of children currently enrolled are at a quality rated program; 4,615 children on the waitlist (3,242 families).
- **Waitlist Status/Enrollment—**Current waitlist time is 24 months, enrollment status is FULL, and our last enrollment outreach was 03/24/2023.
- **Continuity of Care—**CoC participants have up to 12 months to roll-over to a traditional (CCDF) scholarship; We are committed to providing families a 60-day advance notice of their time limited funding; With ARPA funds expiring, current enrollment levels cannot be sustained; We will support families with their waitlist options and connect them with additional resources.
- **Family Celebration and Resource Fair—**Capital Area held their very first Family Celebration and Resource Fair on April 6th and it was very successful! 62 families attended, there were activities for the children, free food, 15 community partners were in attendance to share resources, there were informational sessions for the parents where they could learn CPR and ASQ training, a balloon artist was in attendance as well as live music. 100% of parents said they would attend again. We are looking forward to having this event again next year!
- **Happening Next! Children at Risk Property Tax Relief Webinar—**the webinar has already happened, but you can Visit the Texas Comptroller's Website to find the application at www.comptroller.Texas.gov . To Qualify you: must be a licensed child care center that is located



in a county or municipality that approved the Property Tax Relief; must be participating in Texas Rising Star program; must have at least 20% enrollment of CCS. Required Documentation: Child Care Property Tax Exemption Application (Form 50-844); Texas Rising Star Documentation (photo of TRS certificate); >20% Enrollment Documentation (Child Care Subsidies Payment Report); For those leasing the property, fill out the Child Care Facility Exemption Affidavit (Form 50-855) certifying that the property owner has provided to the child care facility a disclosure in rent reduction. April 30th is the deadline.

- **Parent Training**—We have begun our virtual parent training series at WFS. If you would like to utilize this as a resource to your parents as well, they are open to everyone. Just had our first classes yesterday, well attended. They will be available through August and available in Spanish and English in a variety of topics. Registration is on our Parent Training Eventbrite page.
- **Resources from PBS Kids**—This month's highlight is Lyla in the Loop. Check out the PBS Ready To Learn website for lesson ideas, videos, family learning events, and more!
- **Texas Rising Star Supports**—Inclusion Series; Including Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Part 1 is Tuesday, May 28, 2024 from 2pm-3pm.
- **Texas Rising Star Reminder**—TECPDS assistance is available at our office, Crystal Oliver can help you and you can fill out a request form.
- **Early Childhood Director & Teacher Symposium**—SAVE THE DATE! This event will be in collaboration with Rural Capital Area, and it will be August 2-3, 2024, at Kalahari Resorts. More information will be shared soon.
- **Texas Rising Star Training**—upcoming TRS trainings: TRS Monitoring Prep (zoom) on Thursday, May 16, 2024, 12pm-2pm; Interactions Matter! (TRS cat 2) In-Person, Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9am-1pm (Spanish and English Option); Indoor/Outdoor Environment (TRS cat 4) (zoom), Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 6pm-8pm (Spanish and English Option).
- **Contact Information**
- **Open Discussion**

Tami—how do we know what families are going to be in this funding (CoC-ARPA)? WFS sends out monthly emails with the list of children that are currently authorized for your site with authorization dates and that is one way to know. Not sure if you know as providers if they are CoC or not.

Alexander—how should we use the local priority application form? Encourage you to send in your referrals because it prioritizes those customers to enrollment. Continue to send them in and they will be placed on a waitlist.

Chuck—have own list of other creative possibilities if on waitlist, but does WFS have a list of recommendations for those families that are on the waitlist for a long time? Yes, we have a flyer with resources and then we have a packet that list an exhaustive list of resources they can try to connect with. WFS can provide to you.

Rosemary—as CoC participants are ending their 12-month funding are they going on the waitlist as it ends or on it as they are receiving CoC funds? Need to reapply and confirm need to be on the waitlist.



Michelle—besides the Texas Availability Portal, where can we reach out to families to come to our program? Keeping the portal updated is the biggest recommendation. Christina with Provider Services said you can email her availability (christina.conrad@wfscapitalarea.com), WFS keeps this on our provider waitlist spreadsheet.