

## **PAC Meeting Notes:**

**Overview:** As of June 2024, we have served 4,610 unique children, we have agreements with 509 child care providers, 40.6% of our providers are 2 star rated or higher, and 63.5% of children currently enrolled are at a quality rated provider.

**Waitlist Status:** As of June 13<sup>th</sup>, the waitlist count is 4,995. Enrollment status is currently full, current estimated waitlist time is 24 months and our last enrollment outreach was 3/24/23.

**Continuity of Care Program:** COC participants have up to 12-months to roll-over to a traditional (ccdf) scholarship. Two Updates were announced: Additional ARPA funds are expected, allowing us to serve the children currently in care through their 12 months of eligibility. Additional ARPA funds may allow us to serve additional children for program year 2025 and 2026. Previously, we thought we would need to discontinue care, but we are expected to be able to honor children through their 12 months of eligibility. Funding will prioritize parents who would otherwise experience a gap in their care but we may be able to serve additional children as well.

**TX3C Implementation delayed** – New launch date: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We sent out information to both parents and providers regarding the implementation of TX3C. With the delay we are able to get more comfortable with the systems and procedures. It will also give you time to get used to the changes and ask questions. We are providing continuous feedback on these changes and what impact they will have.

**KinderSystems** – How does it work: Imports family information from the availability portal, attendance is submitted to KinderTrack from KinderConnect, imports provider data from availability portal and CLI, and payments are calculated in KinderTrack using family and provider data. We'll be focusing on the Availability Portal which is available now for providers and it will be available to parents on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents should already be recording attendance through CCMS, KinderConnect and KinderSmart.

CLI will be sharing provider information, and we will have the ability to manually edit and make changes to drive provider payments for Early Learning programs.

**KinderTrack** – holds all family records, will be the system of record for families, and will replace the current legacy system, TWIST.

**Availability Portal** – Provider Central: where providers can update information and availability, ParentPortal – where parents can access childcare information and apply for scholarships. Admin Portal-system: oversight tool for State and local Boards.

**TX3C-Key Changes Ahead:** TWIST to TX3C – TX3C will replace TWIST. We are very excited about this because parents will be able to submit their application electronically and upload their information. The standardized application will be located in Child Care Availability portal. We will also ensure families who do not have access to technology and resources can still apply.

Absence Tracking will resume. Anything that is due to sickness, system error, or excused absences will not count towards the 40 **unexcused** absences. All absences will be reset, and each child will start at 0 absences starting 9/1. This is renewed every eligibility period.

**Child Transfer** – Voluntary transfers of children between Early Learning Programs are not permitted until the start of the second pay period following the parent request. This will mirror private pay parents. The effective dates will vary 3-4 weeks following the date the parent submitted a request.

**Parent Share of Cost** – PsoC will be calculated as a weekly fee. Early Learning Programs are encouraged to collect fees on a weekly or biweekly interval to help ensure payments are accurate. Parents will be encouraged to talk to their ELP to find out how often the ELP wants to collect. This will affect our local reporting procedure for non-pays and more guidance will be shared in the coming months.

**PSoC – Change 2** – The methodology for calculating PSoC will be revised and standardized across the State; effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, discounts for parents that select a quality-rated program will be discontinued. The methodology, in general, is going to benefit the parents. All PSoC amounts will be capped at 7% of household income, regardless of the number of children in care. Parents will still see a gradual increase based on income, but it will be capped at 7%. The removal of the discount and the new calculation will apply at a family's new enrollment. This will not go into effect until the launch of TX3C, which is expected to be September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Minimum 12-month Eligibility for Children Added** – Children enrolled in a child care scholarship, including siblings added to an existing CCS scholarship, receive 12 months of eligibility. The impact is similar to the sibling waitlist. All child care for the family is extended to ensure that every child in the family receives a minimum 12 – month eligibility period.

**Elimination of Voluntary Withdrawal Termination Reason** – we are not able to redetermine eligibility sooner than 12 months. We will suspend care rather than terminating care. Instead, care will be terminated at the end of the 12-month eligibility period if the family has not come back to care.

**Expanded Age Groups** – CCS age groups for provider payments will match CCR age groups, we currently have about 8. Please wait to initiate changes to your agreement (for the purpose of adding rates to the expanded groups) for any other changes please continue to reach out to us. We will send out more information in the coming months.

**Provider Payments** – TWC will issue a statewide payment calendar and payment will be paid prospectively, cover two-week periods, Monday through Sunday. Payments will be made for authorized child care before care is provided. If a child has a birthday that bumps them up to the next age group, it is going to be based on the child's age based on the first day of the two-week billing cycle. Children authorized during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the payment period and during the current pay period may be delayed and payment will occur 1-3 weeks after service; if a provider receives an overpayment for child whose authorization changes or ends during a paid period, we will adjust future payments to recover the overpayment.

**Provider Payments Cont.** – Payment will be based on the provider's location (managing Board) rather than the child's residence. What this means for Capital Area programs, you will be reimbursed based on Capital Area rates even when the child is referred by Rural Capital Board. Our rates are the highest in the state. There is no change to relative provider payments, you will continue to be paid based on attendance after care is provided.

**TX3C - Sample Pay Calendar** – Two-week yellow blocks denote pay periods, blue outlined box denotes date payments are processed for the 2-week pay period that follows. Red outline boxes show the case

changes made during this time (that will affect payment) are not seen until the following pay period. Teal boxes show provider pay dates.

For Example, for the pay period Sept 16-29,

- Sept 9-we process the payments
- Sept 18-you will receive payment for the two-week period.
- You will not see payment for changes made during the current pay period until the following pay period

Visit, [www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com) to stay up to date on all TX3C changes. We do expect changes to occur, and we want to keep providers informed.

**Announcements!** Directors' symposium is now available and will be hosted at the Kalahari!

**Resource of the month from PBS Kids** – Tiny Time Travel, and Self-Paced Learning for teachers, visit [teach.pbskids.org](http://teach.pbskids.org) to register.

**Upcoming trainings;** Cost of Care & Rate Setting (virtual) Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., TRS Monitoring Prep (virtual) Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., and Interactions Matter! (in-person) Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. available in both Spanish and English.