



## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CHILD CARE PROVIDER NEWS

### March Provider Advisory Council Meeting

Provider Advisory Council meetings provide a way for CCS providers to stay connected and up-to-date with news and information. We welcome your suggestions for agenda items. Please plan to join us for the next Provider Advisory Council Meeting.

Thursday, March 22, 2018  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area North  
6505 Airport Blvd, Ste 101E, Austin, TX 78752  
Lone Star Room

**Please RSVP by March 14**

**Note: Lunch will only be provided for those who RSVP.**

### Workforce Solutions Staffing News

#### Rebecca Metz' Resignation

It is with a heavy heart to say that I will be leaving the Workforce family on March 7. I have been working with providers, parents, teachers, and directors for the past nine years, and it has been a joy to see so many positive changes in the world of early childhood during my career with Workforce Solutions Capital Area. I have enjoyed my work with you so very much. It has been challenging and rewarding, and I am thankful to have met and worked with so many of you throughout the years, seeing your programs grow and change. I could not leave without knowing the extremely capable staff that will be with you, Michelle Crawford, Kris Vidauré, the Quality team, and the Child Development Specialists will continue to give you the same support you have always received. Thank you to you all for your passion, dedication, and vision in improving quality child care and assisting our families who need this support the most. It has truly been an honor. Thank you!

#### Jamie Haywood Joins the WFS Team

Jamie Haywood has recently joined Workforce Solutions Capital Area as the Child Care Solutions Director. She comes to us with 17 years of public school education experience as a teacher and an administrator. Jamie graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with her bachelor's degree in Applied Learning and Development and from Concordia University at Austin with her master's degree in Education Administration. Jamie looks forward to continuing to serve the capital area community in her new role.

### Child Care Directors Symposium

Early Childhood Educators strive to Share the Vision of quality in all they do. This year we celebrated and honored that vision by providing a Child Care Directors Symposium full of professional development opportunities to support and encourage a strengthened and rejuvenated desire to not only maintain, but surpass quality indicators. Professional growth, personal reflection, and networking with others who Share the Vision is pivotal in supporting the children of the greater Austin Area. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible! We will hold our Teachers Symposium sometime in August. We will send out more information as soon as it's available.



### Texas Rising Star Achievements

Join us in congratulating these recently certified programs:

- Extend A Care Anderson
- Ireland's Kingdom
- YPV - Mesa
- Bluebonnet
- Generations II
- Lanier Child Development Center
- Yours, Mine and Ours
- Tic, Tac, Toe

### Start Smart Initiative

Start Smart is launching across Texas under the leadership of TEA, United Ways of Texas and Texas PBS. Part of the initiative includes Bright By Text, a free messaging service for families. Families can sign up to get activities, games and resources targeted to their child's age. Please go to [startsmarttexas.org](http://startsmarttexas.org) for more information.

### One Swipe/One Call Attendance

Great news! If you were not aware, parents only have to check in one time each day to successfully record their attendance. Please help parents by ensuring they perform the "check in" option. Check out is no longer required. Parents who continue to check out will still have attendance recorded, as long as the check in option has been performed.

### Provider Payment Proof Reminder

Please review your payment proofs carefully. You must notify CCS Fiscal within 30 days if you are being paid for a child no longer attending, if the rate paid is incorrect, and/or if the parent fee has not been deducted from the payment amount. Any child attending less than 6 hours should have a (0) next to the age group to indicate the child is being paid at a blended rate. Failure of timely notification may result in CCS fiscal being unable to render a corrective payment or may result in a recoupment of a previously paid amount.

### TRS Recertification

It has been three years since the initial rollout of the new Texas Rising Star program. That means several providers will have their TRS certification due during 2018. We will send you information regarding your recertification, the items required, and your scheduled visit. Remember, assessments are planned/scheduled visits by the TRS assessors. In order to prepare for these visits, be sure parent handbooks, policies, staff files, training requirements, etc. are all up to date and current. Lesson plans will also be needed much like during a monitoring visit. For nationally accredited centers and programs, please let us know if you have had any visits from your accrediting bodies within these last three years, including accreditations, national monitoring visits, etc. Additionally, if you are waiting on results from a recent accreditation or have an accreditation visit scheduled for 2018, please let us know that as well. Again, we'll send more information out to the programs individually.

### CLASS Corner

Workforce Solutions Capital Area has embraced CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) as a tool that can be utilized side-by-side with Texas Rising Star to enhance teacher-child interactions and further the understanding of the importance of interactions in our classrooms.

In this blog post, Emily Doyle discusses the myths surrounding CLASS.

#### Top 6 Class Myths

Think you know the CLASS tool? Read on to test your knowledge!

#### Myth #6: CLASS Observations equal teacher improvement.

Collecting observation data is critical, but it's only one piece of the puzzle! Data collection only yields numbers—and numbers, alone, don't yield improvement. If the goal of CLASS is to improve outcomes for children, then CLASS observation data must be coupled with coaching and professional development. Effective teachers are the key ingredients in successful classrooms, and those teachers must be supported through individualized efforts built on observation data.

#### Myth #5: The CLASS tool is just for preschool.

Not true! The CLASS tool is not just for preschool, anyway. It is validated for all age levels ranging from infant all the way up to secondary—and trainings are available for you to become certified on all of them!

#### Myth #4: Reliable CLASS observers must have teaching experience under their belt.

Nope. At first glance, this assumption makes sense: someone observing classrooms should understand what goes on in classrooms. However, because the CLASS tool is an objective measure, the most critical requirement for any observer is the ability to put past experiences and biases aside—using only one's objective notes and the CLASS manual to determine scores. Believe it or not, sometimes the most reliable observers are the ones who arrive to observation training with no education background!

#### Myth #3: Some aspects of the CLASS tool, like prompting children to analyze, demand unrealistic expectations of four-year-olds.

Not true! Young children are naturally thinkers, explorers, and scientists. Let's give them the credit—and opportunities to think—that they deserve. Still not convinced? Then ask yourself this: How many times have you heard a child ask, "Why?" If you have ever spent time with a young child, then you know this question all too well. When children ask big questions, it stems from genuine curiosity and an urge to explore and think deeply about the world around them. The CLASS tool simply gives teachers strategies to stimulate and facilitate this kind of thinking.

#### Myth #2: Scoring a 7 is perfect. How can we expect perfection from teachers?

When a teacher receives a score of 7 on any dimension of the CLASS tool, it's fantastic, but not necessarily perfect. Why? Because perfection doesn't exist! Here's an example: Ms. Washington has warm relationships with children, smiles often, offers verbal affection, and shows respect. Every indicator of this dimension fits the high range and she scores a 7 on Positive Climate. Although the observer noticed a lack of social conversation during the observation, that's okay, because classrooms don't have to be perfect for a score of 7—and even the best of us can find room for improvement.

#### Myth #1: The CLASS measure is a checklist.

If measuring the quality of human interactions was as simple as completing a checklist, the world would be a much different place. It would mean interactions are simple. It might even mean an end to political strife and global conflict! But, alas, interactions are complex. It's pretty darn amazing to have a validated tool that can measure teacher-child interactions, but make no mistake, the CLASS measure is complex—and needs to be. In order to accurately capture the depth, duration, and frequency of teacher-child interactions.

This post originally appeared on [Teachstone.com](http://Teachstone.com)

### Save the date!

The Texas Early Childhood Learning Summit will be held in Dallas on August 1-3, 2018. Stay tuned for more information.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Workforce Solutions Child Care Services will be closed  
February 19 and March 30**

### Feedback

We welcome your response! Workforce Solutions Capital Area is committed to bringing quality child care news to the community. If you have comments about this newsletter or suggestions for future topics, please contact Susan Heffeld at [susan.hefffeld@wfsccapitalarea.com](mailto:susan.hefffeld@wfsccapitalarea.com) or 512.597.7112.

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