
Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021, 12:00 PM

I. Call to order

Chairman, Jim Sjolander, called the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting to order at 12:00 PM on June 24, 2021.

II. Roll Call

Members present (in person or via Zoom): Toni Alonzo, Billy Clark, Taylor Davis, Keri Goins, Tracey Jennings, Anthony Louis, Kristen Morris, Michelle Nelson, Debbie Powell, Glenda Ramsey, Crystal Sanders, Rhonda Schreiber, Jim Sjolander, Dirk Welch, and Julie Young.

Jim Sjolander noted a quorum of members present.

Members not present: Marsha Anderson, Ben Bell, Leslie Chalmers, Roy Cheney, Darren Francis, Steve Halloway, Lee Harvey, Synthia Kirby, Brandon Litteken, Rodney McCleskey, Lee Ritchie Jr., and Mileasha Rizan.

Guests present: Lisa McDaniel, Kendra Ball, Ebonie Batts, Moneisa Downs, Shana Drury, Leslee Escobedo, Karen Fite, Josie Gonzalez, Honorable Judge Woodrow Gossom Jr., Ginger Hannah, Sharon Hulcy, Crystal Ojeda, Brenda Roland, Darla Silva, Lyka Walton, and Chandra Young.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI)

Glenda Ramsey and Keri Goins will abstain due to Conflict of Interest.

III. Consent Agenda

- Motion by Chairman Jim Sjolander to accept last board meeting recording in lieu of minutes. Unanimous consent.
- Motion by Billy Clark and seconded by Michelle Nelson for approval of the Local Child Care Policy. 13 in favor 2 abstained due to COI.

IV. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- **Committee Reports**
 - Kendra Ball gave the report from the Outreach Committee, explaining the 3 factors used to identify the top In-Demand Industries for North Texas. The majority of the industries listed were accepted in committee, however one item was brought to the board for discussion. Three industries projected to have >1,000 employment in 2028, but two show a significant decline in employment over the next 10 years. The one showing an increase in employment does not fit the other two criteria of >100 increase in employment or >25% increase in employment. Board member, Glenda Ramsey asked about the impact of excluding the three industries with regards to training funds for individuals who may enter employment in one of the industries. Mrs. Ball explained that WIOA training funds use the Target Occupations rather than the In-Demand Industry list. Board member, Taylor Davis, also asked about the exclusion of all but

one manufacturing industry sector when it seems we have a demand for manufacturing in North Texas. Kendra Ball explained that manufacturing is one of our top 2-digit NAICS industries, however when broken down to 4-digit industries, only one fell in the top tier. Mrs. Ball also explained that if there is a sector missing that local knowledge of industry growth from industry professionals indicate should be on the in-demand list, then then it can be brought to the Outreach Committee for determination. Motion by Glenda Ramsey and seconded by Taylor Davis for approval of the In-Demand Industry list. Unanimous consent.

- Sharon Hulcy gave update from the Monitoring Committee that the RFP for Fiscal Monitoring did not have any bidders. Sharon Hulcy has expanded all areas and reposted the RFP. The TWC Audit is a virtual audit and is ongoing; will give the official exit report at the next meeting. Lisa McDaniel added the auditors did not see any trends or major concerns. Mrs. Hulcy provided the procurement list that is provided in the attached packet.
- A report was given by Brenda Roland from the Youth Advisory Committee. The paid Year-Round Work Experience program that began from October 2020 has resulted with 9 youth participated 832 hours worked. The Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) Program has a total of 25 referrals, 23 completed the training, 22 currently working. The schedule for SEAL is from June 14 - July 30. Some of the worksites include but are not limited to are the Back Door Theatre, Boys and Girls Club, Thrive Physical Therapy, United Supermarket, Kemp Center for the Arts, Fence and Post, North Texas Workforce, and Work Services Corp.

V. Executive Director Report

Lisa McDaniel updated the Board on the following:

- **Grant Spending Report** – The Board will receive new grant funds for the WIOA program effective July 1, 2021. The amount is currently unknown. Our fiscal agent will update the amounts once received. We are underspent on our TANF dollars by 73%. Equus is doing outreach for customers that receive TANF and engaging them in programs for training during this period. This is an issue around the State due to lack of participation because there is no requirement from the State currently. Jim Sjolander asked if the issue with the pandemic is going to spread over to the other funding. Lisa McDaniel explains that the extra \$300.00 in Unemployment Insurance monies will be ending, with offices reopening the traffic is increasing. The State has seen issues with funding, and we do see trending increasing. This is an issue statewide therefore they will not be sanctioning any boards during this time.
- **Co-location with Vocational Rehabilitation** – Lisa McDaniel met with landlord and building owners at Galaxy, the landlord would like a Letter of Intent from the Board Chair. Mrs. McDaniel made it clear that she is not going to make a decision on this without the boards approval. Glenda Ramsey asked for a report of other locations that have been potential placements. Lisa McDaniel and Center Directors have completed a walk-through at the Galaxy Center to see if they can accommodate our needs. There are several factors regarding the use of housing all departments of Workforce at Galaxy. Mrs. McDaniel will contact the Broker and get the information requested. Julie Young showed concern regarding the possible misplacement of Wichita Adult Literacy Council (WALC). Sharon Hulcy brought forth the idea that we could possibly all come into a partnership such as a One-Stop and share a portion of the cost. Janis Heebner, President of the board for WALC, she shared concern of the landlords coming to see the space for possible redesigning. Mrs. Heebner also briefly explained how WALC's day to day runs, and how a partnership would be amazing. Everyone agreed that open communication is the key in this decision making. Debbie Powell asked for clarification on what the letter of intent is regarding, Lisa McDaniel explained it is a letter to hold the space there are no monies attached to the letter. Mrs. McDaniel also explained that the landlord included his architect in the designing of the Galaxy space. The architect is in house and the designer of the building. This would omit us from having to procure for an architect.

VI. Updates

- Crystal Ojeda reports that all staff are back in person working. The Centers have been opened by appointment only, however they are now opened to the public. The team is currently doing virtual, in person, and drive thru job fairs throughout North Texas.
 - Workforce Solutions Center participated in the Santa Rosa Parade in Vernon, TX on May 12, 2021. They also did an Online Career Interest Assessments Workshop at Georgia Pacific. Georgia Pacific is a manufacturing company in Quanah, they will be closing their doors in 2022. Mrs. Ojeda and her team went out three days in May and June to speak with the employees. The assessments include finding what their strengths were, building a career interest profile to find employment for them when the companies door closes.
 - The team participated in the Graham Community Resource Fair on Saturday, May 15th. They had 30 customers visit the tent for information.
 - Management & Training Corporation (MTC) was selected for the Workforce Solutions North Texas 2020 Local Employer of Excellence Award for their partnership in developing the training initiative at the Lindsey State Jail.
 - Workforce Solutions North Texas-Jacksboro Chamber Non-Profit of the month for May 2021The Workforce Center a Job fair April 24th with great turnout. The numbers are increasing significantly. The Center has been advertising heavily, with billboards, post cards, as well as wrapping a city bus for public transportation.
- Leslee Escobedo with Childcare reports they have cleared The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST) waiting list. The Childcare team is working very hard at keeping this going. TWC has extended the contract until December 2021. Mrs. Escobedo and her team is projected to spend all of it. The Childcare team has placed 335 children within 9 weeks. During the Drive-Thru Enrollment event they served 188 families and place 1390 children in care. Leslee Escobedo and her team has a total of 1301 children in car which will ensure the team is on target to spend the allocated funds by the December timeline. Currently there are 36 of 75 Child Care Provider Centers that are on center wide waiting list on the due to pandemic and low number of staff.

VII. Announcements – Next board meeting is August 26, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman, Jim Sjolander, adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM on June 24, 2021.

Please refer to Board packet for additional updates, success stories, and photos of the great work being done in the community.

Submitted by,

Ebonie Batts
Administrative Specialist