
Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022, 12:00 PM

I. Call to order

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris, called the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Roll Call

Members present (in person or via Zoom): Mary Aranda, Michael Blevins, Leslie Chalmers, Billy Clark, Tracey Jennings, Synthia Kirby, Anthony Louis, Kristin Morris, Debbie Powell, Glenda Ramsey, Mileasha Rizan, Crystal Sanders, Rhonda Schreiber, Dirk Welch, Linda Whitaker, and Julie Young.

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris, noted a quorum of members present.

Members not present: Toni Alonzo, Marsha Anderson, Taylor Davis, Darren Francis, Keri Goins, Steve Holloway, Lee Harvey, Brandon Litteken, Michelle Nelson, Lee Ritchie Jr., and Jim Sjolander.

Guests present: Kendra Ball, Ebonie Batts, Leneva Clark, David Dohme, Moneisa Downs, Leslee Escobedo, Scott Essary, Karen Fite, Josie Gonzalez, Judge Woodrow Gossom, Ginger Hannah, Scotty Henderson, Sharon Hulcy, Lisa McDaniel, Crystal Ojeda, Brenda Roland, Darla Silva, Debra Thomas, Lyka Walton, and Dennis Wilde.

III. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI)

None declared.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Billy Clark made the motion and Synthia Kirby seconded to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting held on December 9, 2021, and the minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on January 14, 2022. 15 in favor, 1 did not vote.

V. Committee Reports

• **Monitoring Committee**

Sharon Hulcy reports the fiscal monitor Diaz Smith and Associates provided a report with good news, there was one issue that was resolved with Rolling Plains, and there were no disallowed costs or other issues. Equus is currently undergoing their review, thus far no issues or disallowed costs have been noted. The Program Monitor, Richard Rogers, is currently reviewing there were no findings or disallows costs. Child Care and the Workforce Center continue to complete reviews with their sub-recipient, there have been no findings or disallowed costs on their behalf. Sharon reviewed the report for the procurement list for 2021 by vendor and asked if there are any questions, please reach out to the board office.

• **Youth Advisory Committee Update**

Brenda Roland reports during their morning meeting they discussed coordination of outreach activities in the community, as well as the student hire-ability 3-year action plan she is currently working on with coordination from partner agencies. Career Education Center will have a Virtual Job Fair on May 6th, that the Workforce Center will be also participating in and have a table there.

- **Executive Director Report** – Lisa McDaniel updated the Board on the following:
 - **Grant Spending Report** – Mrs. McDaniel discussed a few items on the grant report, she explained the Military Family Support grant has a balance of -2%. Lisa McDaniel stated the monies were overspent, however, there are unrestricted funds that will be moved over to correct the negative balance. The Board Service Award grant is now listed on the report.
 - **Childcare RFP** – Lisa McDaniel asked the board members to volunteer to review the potential contracts for the upcoming Child Care RFP. The RFP will be posted for 30 days starting at the end of March. Mrs. McDaniel will need 3 to 5 board members to review. Anthony Louis, Taylor Davis, Rhonda Schreiber, and Mileasha Rizan volunteered.
 - **Additional Childcare Funding** – Report will be given from Childcare Director
 - **Rural Library Project** – Lisa McDaniel reported there have been 20 computers, monitors with cameras, and headsets purchased and are being distributed by June 1st. Due to covid and staff absences, and inclement weather there have been some delays with this project. There’s funding left from the grant; Crystal Ojeda is researching other ways the monies can be spent. Glenda Ramsey asked what type of libraries, Crystal replied they are for rural public libraries. Judge Gossom asked, would connectivity be a problem in the rural areas? Lisa McDaniel replied that they have come a long way when the mobile unit goes out into those areas there are not any issues with connectivity. IT manager will work with the libraries in the rural areas to see if there is a gap we could fill in the area of concern for connectivity. Thus far in the many visits with the Librarians across the counties, there is a need for this equipment to enhance services to the areas and much excitement around this project from those who have provided information of needs. Staff will continue to work with the counties to ensure each Library that needs equipment will have it for customers that need to job search, complete job applications, and other resources available to them to further their efforts in meeting the workforce needs.
 - **Galaxy** – Mrs. McDaniel states the lease for Galaxy has been signed; the architect will be meeting with Lisa McDaniel to look at material selections such as carpet, paint, and tile. The construction will be in different phases, Mrs. McDaniel asked for a specific timeline due to staff working while the renovation is taking place. The logistics haven’t been worked out as of yet for the timeline but Mrs. McDaniel states that the Architect, building owner, and herself will all work to ensure staff are able to continue to work with minimal interruption as possible, but also expects there to be some instances where offices will need to be moved and areas of construction that will interfere with current space. Again, all parties will work together to ensure the best for everyone in order to meet construction deadlines.
 - **Website Project** – Lisa McDaniel reported that Kendra Ball and Lyka Walton are working with Hoegger Communications to revamp our Board website. We will be able to continue to use our current website until the final project is complete, and the expected completion time will be in a couple of months.

- A. **Workforce Solutions Workforce Center** – Crystal Ojeda reports her team has been busy. They have had nine hiring events over the past month. North Texas State Hospital has had 3 hiring events totaling 85 job seekers, 5 of those were veterans; Texas Department of Criminal Justice had 6 job seekers and 4 job offers; Sevita had 11 job seekers; the City of Wichita Falls had 56 job seekers and 23 job offers; Tower Extrusions had 11 job seekers, 3 of those were veterans, and they interviewed 4 people. Crystal shared an insert from the Workforce Re\$ource Blog. Crystal Collins was a former Choices customer and is now an employee with Workforce Solutions North Texas and the blog gives the story of her success with our services and how far she has come. Mrs. Ojeda reported also they are at 93.49% on their customer survey results and explained that these results are shared with staff as kudos and also review for any areas of concern they need to address. Crystal also reported that her team also visited Forestburg ISD to provide presentations and resume building to their students.

- B. **Workforce Solutions Child Care** – Leslee Escobedo reports TWC has approved an additional \$1 billion for the Child Care Relief Fund to help centers stabilize, grow, and rebuild. Texas Rising Star has updated its logo, and anything with the previous logo should not be used. Leslee is going to contact Mrs. Walton to get the old logo

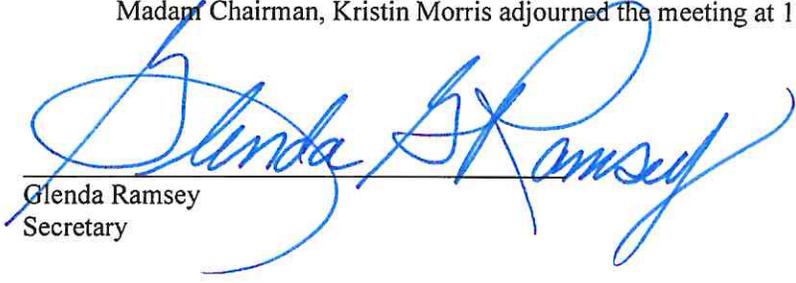
updated. Leslee Escobedo states the commissioners approved a modification of the SIR Plan, due to all the funds that did not get used. Mrs. Escobedo reports they currently have 15 students in classes at Vernon College campus in Wichita Falls.

- C. ***Unemployment and Rapid Response*** – Kendra Ball reported on the trends of the unemployment rate from 2019 – 2021 for the different counties in this area, and the graphs and items are located in the board packet.

VI. **Announcements** – Next board meeting is April 28, 2022.

VII. **Adjournment**

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.


Glenda Ramsey
Secretary