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## Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes

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April 28, 2022, 12:00 PM

**I. Call to Order**

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris, called the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

**I. Roll Call**

*Members present (in person or via Zoom):* Marsha Anderson, Mary Aranda, Michael Blevins, Billy Clark, Taylor Davis, Darren Francis, Keri Goins, Steve Halloway, Synthia Kirby, Brandon Litteken, Kristin Morris, Debbie Powell, Glenda Ramsey, Crystal Sanders, Rhonda Schreiber, Jim Sjolander, Dirk Welch, and Julie Young. Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris noted a quorum of members present.

*Members not present:* Toni Alonzo, Lee Harvey, Tracey Jennings, Anthony Louis, Michelle Nelson, Lee Ritchie Jr., Mileasha Rizan, and Linda Whitaker.

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

**II. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI)**

None declared.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- Billy Clark made the motion and Rhonda Schreiber seconded to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting held on March 3, 2022 (14 in favor, 4 did not vote).

**IV. Committee Reports**

• **Monitoring Committee**

Sharon Hulcy reports the results from the audit TWC reports no findings for June 2021. TWC exit report for the April 2022 review, a few potential findings were noted. Disbursement for 20 meals ordered for April 2021 board meeting and only 9 people RSVP'd. Lisa explained this number was based on the number of judges and board members that potentially could arrive in person at the meetings with no notice. Due to this potential finding, there will be attendance polls sent out prior to the meeting asking that all board members RSVP for each upcoming meeting. Lisa explains that if TWC determines this is a disallowed cost to be paid back, we will do so from the unrestricted funds. The second potential finding was with the WIOA Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Agreements (MOU/IFA). Stating that the Board did not show the reconciliation of the infrastructure cost to actual cost with the partners. Board will reach out to Fiscal Technical Assistance in this area of concern. In addition, the Board comes up for certification every 3 years. Diaz, Smith, and Associates fiscal review was certified, and Richard Rogers was certified on three of four areas of the program reviews. The SNAP program review was not certified and will be reviewed again next year for certification. If the board ever changes monitors, it will have to be completed again. The RFP for Childcare was released and posted, the deadline for submittal is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- **Youth Advisory Committee Update**

Brenda Roland reports the Youth Advisory group met that morning, chaired by Mr. Clark. They discussed two programs they are collaborating with:

- Year-Round Paid Work Experience and Vocational Rehab are working together to provide work for students ages 14 to 22 years old; up to 12 weeks; and up to 20 hours. They currently have 7 youth in the program in which two of those youth have been in the program for over a year.
- Summer Earn and Learn program will run from June 13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The orientation will be June 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> as of current there are 11 enrolled in the program.

- **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 we will be receiving new WIOA money in July (amount unknown). Lisa McDaniel requested an extension on the Home Grant funds due to the remaining unspent funds. This Home Grant will help rural businesses with building websites to help them have a virtual footprint in their communities. Lisa’s request was extended to October to finish that grant out so we will completely expend those funds.
- **VR Co-location Update** – Lisa McDaniel met with the architect on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and approved the colors for the flooring and paint for the Workforce Center. Lisa also had a walk-through with Debbie Powell and the regional director of VR and made minor adjustments. The subcontractors had to have their bids turned in on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. McDaniel checked to see how they are with the timeline because they thought that they might be able to begin on May 2nd if the building owner gave the approval to start. Lisa explains they have experienced some budget overruns due to the volatility of the market right now. So, they are working with their subcontractors, trying to get those prices down. based on the shortage of labor and materials. They may not be able to start next week, however, the architect assured Lisa they will finish within the timeline of October 1st.
- **Big Blue Update** – Lisa McDaniel reported there is nothing new on the Big Blue lawsuit, we are waiting on the appellate court to rule their final decision.
- **Annual Report** – Mrs. McDaniel praised Kendra Ball and Lyka Walton for their hard work on the annual report 2022.
- **BSA Project** – Lisa McDaniel shared the equipment, and the desk aids are going out to all rural libraries. Karen added the libraries are very excited to be able to assist job seekers. Lisa explained this grant was won in December.

**Workforce Solutions Workforce Center** – Crystal Ojeda reports her team has been busy, they have had over seven hiring events. The largest events were the Ring in the Spring Job Fair, on March 22, partnered with Region 9 ESC 37 Employers. The other events happening in the community: Tower Extrusions, February 18, 11 job seekers (3 veterans); Texas Department of Criminal Justice, February 22, 1 job seeker; North Texas State Hospital, March 9, 30 job seekers (4 veterans); 106 Job Seekers (10 Veterans); Graham Community Job Fair, April 6, North Central Texas College 14 Employers, 13 Job Seekers; Tower Extrusions, April 6, 4 job seekers; City of Wichita Falls, April 12-14, 44 Job Seekers. Lanell Louton retired from AARP after 24 years of service. Janie Valverde retired from the Vernon office after 18 years of service. Crystal shares this month’s success story for Ashley Gutshall was laid off from her job in production and needed a career to support her two children. Ashley obtained her LVN license in December 2021. Mrs. Ojeda shared that the positive feedback for February and March was 92.41%.

A. **Workforce Solutions Child Care** – Leneva Clark reports TWC has approved an additional \$1 billion for the Child Care Relief Fund to help centers stabilize, grow, and rebuild. Service Industry Recovery (SIR) funding closed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and we received a total of 75 Applications. Out of those 75 applicants, we were able to determine 29 applicants eligible and placed 38 children in care for a year without cost. Due to excess funding from the SIR initiative, TWC has recalculated the target numbers for each board area for the remainder of the contract year. The

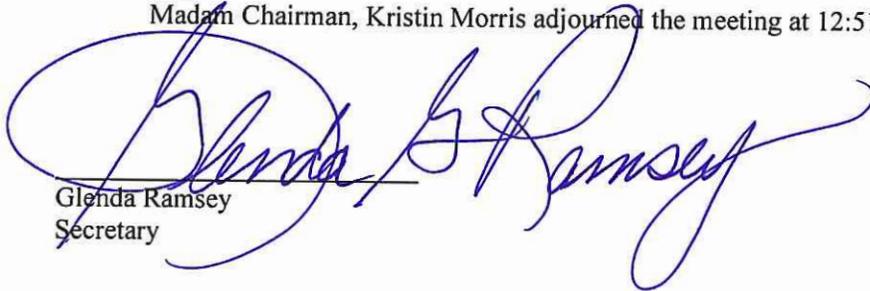
Child Care program reinstated a waiting list beginning February 10, 2022, and since then there are 143 families and 230 children waiting for child care services. The estimated waiting time for child care is currently 8-9 months. Mrs. Clark reports in the month of March 2022, 657 children receiving child care services attended a TRS facility. That means that 45.40% of subsidized children received a higher level of quality at their child care center. Leneva reports about the Provider Services and Quality Updates, there are currently 15 students in classes at Vernon College campus in Wichita Falls. Mrs. Clark reports TRS Retention Bonus Initiative was implemented the week of April 18th. Workforce Solutions is planning to disperse the first round of payments to more than 200 TRS center staff by May 1, 2021. In early November 2022, the second round of higher payments will be distributed to those same staff members who have remained employed at the center at the 6-month mark. Lisa added the monies distributed will help with staff retention in the centers.

- B. ***Unemployment and Rapid Response*** – Kendra Ball reported unemployment rate in North Texas continues to fall month-over-month. There has been a downward trend in unemployment which indicates fewer and fewer people who are unemployed. The Civilian Labor Force (CLF) chart with its upward trend line indicates that an increasing number of individuals are returning to the labor market. The Civilian Labor Force includes all individuals who are currently employed or who are unemployed but have actively looked for work within the last four weeks. Mrs. Ball shared that TWC noticed how well we are doing with the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) integration. She added our board staff has been invited to speak at the TWC Forum on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Austin.

V. **Announcements** – Next board meeting is June 23, 2022.

VI. **Adjournment**

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris adjourned the meeting at 12:51 PM.



Glenda Ramsey  
Secretary