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## Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes

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December 9, 2021, 12:00 PM

### **I. Call to order**

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris, called the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

### **II. Roll Call**

*Members present (in person or via Zoom):* Toni Alonzo, Michael Blevins, Billy Clark, Keri Goins, Steve Halloway, Synthia Kirby, Anthony Louis, Kristin Morris, Michelle Nelson, Debbie Powell, Glenda Ramsey, Lee Ritchie Jr., Mileasha Rizan, Crystal Sanders, Rhonda Schreiber, Jim Sjolander, Dirk Welch, and Linda Whitaker. Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris noted a quorum of members present.

*Members not present:* Marsha Anderson, Leslie Chalmers, Taylor Davis, Darren Francis, Lee Harvey, Tracey Jennings, Brandon Litteken, and Julie Young.

*Guests present:* Kendra Ball, Ebonie Batts, Judge Mike Campbell, Leneva Clark, Moneisa Downs, Leslee Escobedo, Scott Essary, Karen Fite, Josie Gonzalez, Sharon Hulcy, Lisa McDaniel, Crystal Ojeda, Brenda Roland, Darla Silva, and Lyka Walton.

### **III. Declaration of Conflict of Interest (COI)**

None declared.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

- Steve Halloway made the motion and Dirk Welch seconded to accept the minutes from the November board meeting.

### **V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

- **2022 Board Budget**– Motion made by Billy Clark and seconded by Synthia Kirby accepting the 2022 Board Budget. 18 in favor.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

#### **Youth Advisory Committee Update**

- The center is continuing its outreach efforts by visiting schools such as Bowie, Goldberg, Archer City, Jacksboro, and Graham. Region 9 is hosting a Senior Blast off on January 13<sup>th</sup> that Workforce Solutions WORKS will participate in.

**Executive Director Report** – Lisa McDaniel updated the Board on the following:

- **Board Member Update:** Welcomed the new board members who are Linda Whitaker from Archer County with Archer Supply Company and Whitaker Lawn Service in Archer City, and Michael Blevins from Young County with Tower Extrusions in Olney. There will be an additional board member from the private sector in

the upcoming month hopefully and once the private sector is filled Shana Drury will be added as an additional board member from Vernon College. Mrs. McDaniel explained that in order to comply with TWC board member make-up, an additional private sector is needed before adding Mrs. Drury.

- **Grant Spending Report** – Lisa McDaniel reviewed the report of grants as of 10/31/21. Mrs. McDaniel also informed of the new grants that have started as of October 2021 that are listed within the report.
- **Update on Co-Location** – Lisa McDaniel met with Domain Real Estate this week and provided a blueprint draft of the renovation for the Galaxy Center. Texas Workforce Commission has reviewed and approved the plan for the space that Vocational Rehabilitation will house in. Lisa will meet with the broker to look at different plans/proposals. Lisa will then call for a meeting with the Executive Committee to review the amortization and review the various proposals of options made by the Landlord/building owner, Paul Clark. The attorney Kyle Fonville will be reviewing the lease prior to signing. The building owner Paul Clark has approved the tentative blueprints for the property. Tentative blueprint is in the attached packet on page 6. Lisa McDaniel was asked if the board staff was going to relocate to the Galaxy. Lisa stated not at this time. Jim Sjolander agreed that there is a need for separation of the board staff and the center staff, this is in the bylaws. Lisa McDaniel clarified there is no requirement from TWC regarding location of board staff and center staff. Glenda Ramsey added the proximity of the location of the board staff was close in distance, Mrs. McDaniel agreed. Lisa McDaniel responds to question from Jim Sjolander at previous meeting regarding entering a new lease while in a lawsuit. Lisa spoke with Mr. Fonville(attorney), and he indicated that the case was submitted to the judges on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> but it would be a couple of months before we will know the outcome. Mr. Fonville stated that if Big Blue won the appeal we would still need to relocate, and this lawsuit could go on for years.
- **Innovation Award** – Lisa McDaniel shared that Kendra Ball wrote an application for the Innovation Award that was to be awarded to 5 Workforce Boards in November at the TWC State Conference. Mrs. McDaniel informed everyone that North Texas Board was one of the 5 boards chosen and won and were awarded \$200,000. Mrs. McDaniel explained the application was written for funds to go toward our rural libraries in purchasing equipment to assist with the communities and those that are job seeking. In addition, there will be accessible equipment purchased for those customers who need special accommodations due to a disability. Mrs. McDaniel also explained that each board was asked to submit a 3-minute video to be shown at the TWC State Conference in November of how boards used innovation to adapt to the fast-changing Covid pandemic and keep providing customers with services. The following link is the video created by Lyka Walton, the boards Community Engagement Specialist that was submitted for North Texas highlighting how staff adapted to the ever-changing needs of our customers during the pandemic.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCziSYlyQTw>.

- A. **Workforce Solutions Workforce Center** – Crystal Ojeda reports during the month of October they served over 1,500 job seekers, placed 24 job seekers into employment, and provided 266 services to employers. Crystal Ojeda’s team hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hiring Red, White, and You! event at the Sikes Lake Center. There were 45 employers, 73 job seekers, and 25 of those job seekers were veterans for this event. There were 4 job seekers that were hired at the event. The VIP guest in attendance was Les Trobman, Attorney for Texas Workforce Commission and he was presented with a ceremonial flag for attending the event. Mrs. Ojeda stated that staff have been in the community with staff who spoke at Bowie ISD on October 28<sup>th</sup> about job readiness and interview skills with high school students. Goldberg seniors visited the Workforce Center and staff spoke with the seniors about life after high school. This month’s success story is from Sara Aguebor who completed her education and obtained her BSN in August 2021 and received her RN license in September 2021. She is employed at Dallas Medical City making \$31.60 an hour. There was a career fair in Archer City and Mrs. Ojeda shared that her team continues to maintain excellent customer service with the positive survey results they receive. Kendra Ball showed appreciation to Dirk Welch for providing the center with the space for the Red, White, and You! event.
- B. **Workforce Solutions Child Care** – Leslee Escobedo reports Child Care still currently has no waiting list and is placing children immediately. Throughout the year the applications submitted for services have tripled. Mrs.

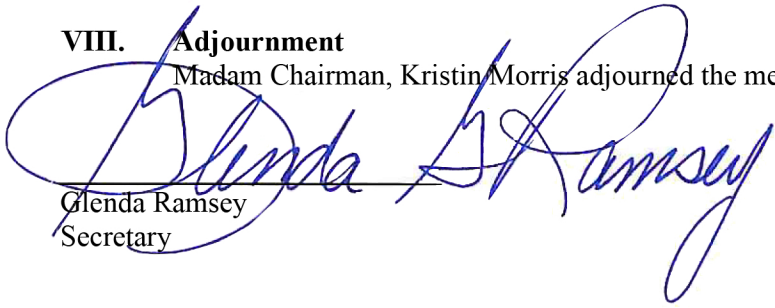
Escobedo states as of December the childcare office has 1,305 children in care and 1,212 discretionary children in care; being 118.8% in performance. Mrs. Escobedo shared staff are continuing to enroll childcare customers in SIR (Service Industry Recovery) funding through March 2022. Leslee Escobedo spoke on the childcare grants and how childcare is spending the funds. January 31, 2022, is the first day of classes for scholarship CDA (Child Care Development Association) students at Vernon Colleges' Wichita Falls campus. The childcare team is currently taking applications for 30 eligible childcare center teachers to complete CDA coursework. Application deadline is January 21, 2022. Mrs. Escobedo and her team are currently gathering feedback and data from all TRS (Texas Rising Star) facilities on their individual staffing situations to budget incentive staff retention payments for everyone employed at a TRS center. Leslee has been working with Josie Gonzales, and Lisa McDaniel to complete the data received. Provider Services Staff are preparing for the biannual Quality Needs Assessment scheduled to be implemented in late February 2022 for all TRS providers.

- C. **Unemployment and Rapid Response** – Kendra Ball reported on Rapid Response and the Board is still working with Tranter to provide rapid response services who is closing their plant at the end of the month. Tranter will keep a few staff over the first of the year, unsure of how many or how long they will be employed. Mrs. Ball reported the unemployment rate is decreasing, yet there is still work to be done. Mrs. Ball reported Jack, Montague, and Wilbarger County have trended down but are still higher than the North Texas and Texas rates. Glenda Ramsey asked for clarification on the unemployment numbers based on pre-pandemic until now. Mrs. Ball replied there are a lot of different factors with pre-pandemic versus currently. Mrs. Ball also explained with the civilian labor force if a person is unemployed and not actively seeking employment within four weeks, they are not included in the numbers given on the chart. There has not been a drastic change in the numbers on the labor force.

VII. **Announcements** – Next board meeting is February 24, 2022.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Madam Chairman, Kristin Morris adjourned the meeting at 1:19 PM.

  
Glenda Ramsey  
Secretary