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## Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes

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August 25, 2022, 12:00 PM

**I. Call to Order**

Temporary Chairman, and Secretary, Glenda Ramsey, called the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

**II. Roll Call**

*Members present (in person or via Zoom):* Toni Alonzo, Mary Aranda, Michael Blevins, Lauren Bush, Taylor Davis, Keri Goins, Steve Halloway, Tracey Jennings, Synthia Kirby, Brandon Litteken, Anthony Louis, Michelle Nelson, Debbie Powell, Glenda Ramsey, Mileasha Rizan, Crystal Sanders, Dirk Welch, Linda Whitaker. Temporary Chairman, and Secretary, Glenda Ramsey noted a quorum of members present.

*Members not present:* Marsha Anderson, Billy Clark, Darren Francis, Lee Harvey, Kristin Morris, Lee Ritchie Jr., Rhonda Schreiber, Jim Sjolander, and Julie Young.

*Guests present* Kendra Ball, Ebonie Batts, Leneva Clark, David Dohme, Moneisa Downs, Karen Fite, Christine Gerber, Josie Gonzalez, Scotty Henderson, Sharon Hulcy, Lisa McDaniel, Crystal Ojeda, Edward Pichardo, Brenda Roland, Sandi Stahr, Debra Thomas, and Lyka Walton, and Dennis Wilde.

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

**IV. Approval of Temporary Chairman**

- Taylor Davis made the motion and Brandon Litteken seconded to accept Glenda Ramsey as Temporary Chairman (18 in favor).

**V. Approval of Minutes**

- Steve Holloway made the motion and Taylor Davis seconded to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting held on June 23, 2022 (18 in favor).

**VI. Committee Reports**

- **Youth Advisory Committee Update**

- Brenda Roland reports the Youth Advisory group met that morning, chaired by Synthia Kirby due to Mr. Billy Clark's absence. 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. 1 Student is currently enrolled in this program.
  - Summer Earn and Learn program ran from June 13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The orientation was from June 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> there were 22 enrolled in the program.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Expo for 8<sup>th</sup> graders September 8<sup>th</sup> at Region 9. There are 21 schools currently participating, with roughly 1,100 students. There will be 13 occupations for the students to learn from.
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Fair October 12<sup>th</sup> at Midwestern State University.

- **Executive Director Report** – Lisa McDaniel updated the Board on the following:
  - **Welcome New Board Member** – Mrs. McDaniel introduced Mrs. Lauren Bush as the newest board member. Lauren Bush is the Economic Development Director for the city of Seymour. Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) approved Mrs. Bush on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Upcoming Board Term Expirations** – Lisa McDaniel reported that 7 spots on the board member roster that need to be renewed. Mrs. McDaniel will be reaching out to board members to renew their terms.
  - **Update on Childcare Director Position** – Lisa McDaniel updates the board that Donna Adams was selected to be the Childcare Director. Mrs. McDaniel thanked Leneva Clark and Mark Cisneros for assisting with this position during this transition. Debra Thomas shared her excitement about Mrs. Adams's onboarding and appreciation for the board's support.
  - **New Board Staff Positions-Childcare Community Engagement Specialist** – Lisa McDaniel shared that TWC has offered funding to help expand business services within Childcare Department. Lisa would like to hire 2 employees at the board level, their positions will be Childcare Community Engagement Specialist. These positions will work closely with the current Community Engagement Specialist with a focus on the Childcare program to assist with expansion. They will work under the direction of our Business and Outreach Manager, Kendra Ball. This funding is temporary funding and will end in April 2024.
  - **Grant Spending Report** – Mrs. McDaniel shared this report shows the dates and amounts of each grant. Lisa explained we are in the process of completing the new budget for 2023.
  - **Procurement List** – Lisa McDaniel explained this list is a running total of the year. There has been an increase in purchasing items for the Board Service Award (BSA) Project. This grant has been used in purchasing equipment for rural libraries.
  - **TWC Monitoring Visit** – The visit will take place the first week of May 2023. Lisa is waiting to hear the results of the April 2022 audit.
  - **Update on Co-location** – Lisa shared that she has a meeting this afternoon with Gary Baker for updates on the construction. The sheetrock is 100% completed, they are restructuring the storefront for the entrance of the Workforce Center. The bathrooms will be ready for tile installation. The goal is still October 1<sup>st</sup>. Glenda Ramsey stated the October 1<sup>st</sup> goal is going to be affected due to the supply chain. She explained there are so many projects going on in the city at the same time. Mrs. Ramsey said there is a significant labor force issue that is affecting timelines for supply and demand. Debbie Powell says the construction is going well and everything looks good.
  - **Update on Big Blue Lawsuit** – Lisa McDaniel spoke to Mr. Fonville our attorney, and Big Blue's attorney asked Mr. Fonville to extend the deadline to file the petition with the Supreme Court. Mr. Fonville has done this twice the current deadline is August 30<sup>th</sup>, and he is going to file a letter stating we do not want to respond. Taylor Davis asked if this case was supposed to go through the Appellate Court. Lisa replied we have won that part, but it could go to the Supreme Court. Big Blue's attorney has filed an extension to go to the Supreme Court. Lisa stated once the Supreme Court denies the motion, all litigation is complete.
  - **Shared Space Project** – Lisa McDaniel shares that we had some extra funding from the Board Service Award (BSA) grant. Kendra Ball and Lisa McDaniel spoke at the Seymour city council meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> to propose a shared workspace partnership with the City of Seymour. The City of Seymour approved the proposal. The city will provide the building, utilities, and other infrastructure improvements; and Workforce Solutions will provide workstations for community members who accept remote jobs. Lauren Bush added that hopefully, other rural communities will be able to do the same. Mrs. Bush stated this opportunity will provide workstations at home for those participants that may not be able to afford them on their own. They will have the opportunity to work from home and or rent a space at the building. Lauren said that this would help with an increase in pay for people in the community. Glenda Ramsey asked what if there is an employee there in the building that needs assistance? Lauren Bush responded that there will be someone that is there to help man the building during the majority of the working hours. Mrs. Bush shared that there will be some workspaces that will be able to be locked. She also stated that there will be a keypad system where they can get into the building at off-peak times to work if that individual has late night hours. Kendra Ball gave accolades to Lauren Bush for brainstorming and coming up with this project.

- **Update on Healthcare Apprenticeship** – Mrs. McDaniel shares that we will be partnering with United Regional Health Care System and Vernon College. United Regional is going to have 18 Apprentices for the hospital. Kendra Ball gave a letter of intent to the Priddy Foundation, they invited the board to apply for funding. This funding will help supplement the cost of the apprenticeship program. The Priddy Foundation will meet with several from the board office on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **TWC State Conference** – The conference will be held in Dallas from November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lisa has invited the board members that would like to attend to contact her.

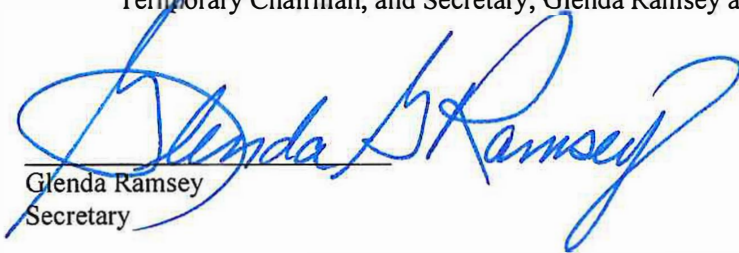
**Workforce Solutions Workforce Center** – Crystal Ojeda reports her team has been busy, they served over 1365 customers in July 44 entered employment. The Baylor County Job Fair was on June 15, in Seymour, they had 8 employers and 3 job seekers. The partnership with the City of Wichita Falls and Workforce Solutions hosted an event at the MPEC on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The event had 92 employers, and 426 job seekers, and of the job seekers 26 of them were veterans. Tower Extrusions hosted a hiring event on June 17<sup>th</sup> they had 7 job seekers and 1 veteran. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Job Y'all Career Expo will be on September 8<sup>th</sup> at Region 9. At this event, there will be 1500 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and they will learn about different occupations. Summer Earn and Learn were on June 6<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> there were 23 students that completed the work readiness training; 22 started Work Experience at 20 different worksites. Mrs. Ojeda shared about the progress of the Rural Library Project, this project is designed to help those in rural communities' access potential work leads, and training, and is also helpful for employers in those communities as well. As of now, there are 11 out of 17 libraries have already had career stations installed. Equus honored the veteran employees with touchstones to say thank you and that they appreciate their service. Crystal shares this month's success story of Ashley Smith. She was seeking to obtain her RN license. Ashley graduated in May 2022 and is now working at United Regional making \$27.50/hr. Mrs. Ojeda shared that the positive feedback for June and July was 88.5%.

- Workforce Solutions Child Care** – Leneva Clark shared there is a total of 450 children on the waiting list. They purchased 54 sets of curriculums for TRS providers. Lisa McDaniel thanked Leneva for stepping in and helping while the director position was filled.
- Unemployment and Rapid Response** – Kendra Ball reported that there are more people going back to work while more people are entering the labor force by either going to work or looking for work. In July, there were 543 more people in the labor force either working or looking for work than in February 2020. Mrs. Ball reports there have been several closures in this year, the most recent being Windthorst Sausage closed on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Website** – Our website has been revamped and is not complete. The website has several accessibility options that will allow anyone with any type of disability to navigate through the website. The board encourages anyone to view the website at [www.ntxworksolutions.org](http://www.ntxworksolutions.org). Lisa McDaniel gave accolades to Kendra Ball, Lyka Walton, and Hoegger Communications for a job well done.

**VII. Announcements** – Next board meeting is on October 27, 2022.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Temporary Chairman, and Secretary, Glenda Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM.

  
 Glenda Ramsey  
 Secretary