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Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2024

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Board met at noon on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at Workforce Solutions North Texas, 4309 Jacksboro Hwy., Entrance 5, in Wichita Falls, in the Lonestar conference room.

MEMBERS PRESENT (via in person or zoom):

Toni Alonzo, Communities in Schools Greater Wichita Falls
Marsha Anderson, Rolling Plains Management Corporation
Lauren Bush, Seymour Economic Development Director
Billy Clark, Helping Electra's Local People
Keri Goins, Childcare Partners
Steve Holloway, Wichita Falls Trades and Labor Council
Vicki Holland, Holland Land & Cattle
Maria Jaimes, Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce
Chelsea Lewis, Lewis Learning Center
Kristin Little, American National Bank & Trust
Anthony Louis, Pratt & Whitney
Kenny Miller, Region 9
Debbie Powell, Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation
Glenda Ramsey, Harper Perkins Architects
Crystal Sanders, Texas Workforce Commission
Rhonda Schriber, Humana
Jim Sjolander, Berenda Brothers
Scotty Sproles, NOV Fiber Glass Systems
Dirk Welch, Midwestern State University
Linda Whitaker, Archer Supply
Julie Young, Wichita Adult Literacy
Kevin Benton, Montague County Judge

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mary Aranda, Farmers Insurance
Michael Blevins, Tower Extrusions
Dori Dockery, United Regional Health Care System
Tracey Jennings, Attorney
Mileasha Rizan, Work Service Corporation
Michelle Wood, WFISD CTE

GUESTS PRESENT:

Donna Adams, WFS Childcare

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Tiffany Jones, WFS Childcare
Darla Silva, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center
Sandi Stahr, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center
Crystal Ojeda, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Cynthia Humphrey, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Lisa Boyd, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Ginger Hannah, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Mary Havens, WFS Childcare
Brittany Myles, Equus Workforce Center

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director
Kendra Ball, Business & Outreach Manager
Karen Fite, Technology Manager
Robin Read, IT Systems Support
Dakota Mize, Community Engagement Specialist
Kayla Crowley, Community Engagement Specialist – Childcare Division
Sydney Clement, Administrative Assistant / EO Officer

Kristin Little, Madam Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm. Mrs. Little called roll for the Board members.

Mrs. Little asked for public comment, which there was none.

Mrs. Little asked for any declaration of conflict of interest and there was none noted.

Mrs. Little asked for approval of the consent agenda and the minutes from the June 2024 Board meeting. Billy Clark made the motion to approve. Glenda Ramsey seconded. (motion passed).

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director, discussed the Bowie Workforce Center Lease. Mrs. McDaniel indicated that the Real Estate Broker has been working with the landlord of the Bowie Workforce Center. Before this, Mrs. McDaniel indicated that the Broker attempted to locate other space in the city of Bowie and worked with other property owners but there wasn't much that didn't require extensive repairs or that would accommodate our space needs. The current Landlord has agreed to a five-year lease at where we have been located now for over 10 years. The new Lease will go into effect September 1, 2024 and run through August 31, 2029. The current rent is \$2,000 a month. The Landlord has agreed to do a five-year lease, at the amount of \$2,250 from September 1, 2024, to August 2026 and then \$2,350 from 2026 to 2029. Mrs. Little asked the Board for approval for the lease. A few questions were asked by some of the Board members, the lease does meet its recommendations. A few things will be fixed to meet some requirements because of the most recent EO Monitoring and the landlord has told us they will be completed by September 30th. There is a clause that we put in the contract that if it's due to funding we can get out of the lease. This lease also includes utilities. Mrs. Little then went on to ask for approval of the Bowie Workforce Center Lease; Kenny Miller made the motion to



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approve the new lease and Billy Clark seconded. Motion passed to move forward with the new 5-year Lease of Bowie Workforce center where we have been located.

Mrs. McDaniel went on to discuss a few board member expirations coming up on 9/30/24 with most staying on board. We are still in compliance but will work to fill a few vacancies.

Mrs. McDaniel then discussed that she has heard from the TWC Monitors and they will be here the week of May 5th, 2025 to conduct their annual review. The review will have some testing that is required to be done on-site, but everything else can be conducted remotely. The plan is the entrance and exit to be remote, with meetings set up during the week to conduct the following testing on-site: Cash and Cash Equivalents, where they will be verifying gas/incentive/other cash equivalents on at center. Priority of Service, where they will conduct walkthroughs of enters to verify signage and the process. Property, where they will verify the location of a sample item from the Board property list and PII, where they will conduct walkthroughs of the centers if the Board has not conducted and documented PII monitoring. The current FY24 Report is going through the QA review process and the department goal is to have all Board reports issued by the end of September.

The 27th Annual TWC State Conference is coming up December 4th – December 6th, 2024, at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. This year our very own Kendra Ball, Marketing and Outreach Manager, is going to give a presentation on the PATHS grant that we have worked on for the last several years. Please reach out to Lisa McDaniel if you plan on attending the conference.

Mrs. McDaniel indicated that she and team are working on a couple of grants. The first one is an Innovation Grant that is due September 19th. The focus will be to serving justice involved individuals in our 11-county region and have already requested assistance and support from all CEOs with a meeting soon for our application submission. The second grant is the Internship Grant. This application is due in October and the focus of the grant will be for high school students that attend a technical dual college credit course. We would facilitate work experiences that address the skill shortages in regional high-demand middle skill STEM occupations. The target audience for this grant is foster youth, students with disabilities, students from low-income families and populations underserved in STEM, to include females and racial and ethnic minorities. Focus will be to work with partners such as high school CTE coordinators, Region 9, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Student Hire-ability Navigator to identify participants.

Mrs. McDaniel then announced that she will be attending the WIN (Workforce Innovation Network) Texas Meeting in South Padre on Sept 8-11th. She has been nominated to serve as the Chair/President for the next year of this organization that consists of herself and the other 27 Workforce Board Executive Directors. She will be the voice for the group and liaison with the Texas Workforce Executive Director and Commissioners. She'll have the ability to learn and advocate for the workforce at a higher level than just regionally. She has had some long-term ED's that are from larger board areas that will assist mentoring her throughout this process.

Mrs. Kendra Ball, Marketing & Outreach Manager, announced that we placed 27 teachers in the Teacher Externship Program, and that they got to take what they learned at some local business back to the classroom. Two videos of the externship were shared with the Board and can watch on our website under the August board meeting YouTube video.

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Mrs. Donna Adams, WFS Childcare, announced program updates. Effective August 23rd, the Child Care Assistance Program will be down and reopen in September due to the new system transitions. Effective September 1st, every childcare center must have a TECPDS account and becoming a Texas Rising Star provider is now a mandatory requirement for all childcare providers that are in contract with Workforce Solutions.

As of August 19, 2024, there are 300 children waiting for childcare services on the waitlist for North Texas. The estimated wait time for childcare is currently 2-4 months. Per Texas Rising Star guidelines, our providers must have a certain number of training hours depending on the type of facility. To help them obtain their hours, Donna and her team have implemented training within their office, The Director's Luncheon, and this is for all the Directors and Assistant Directors of all our childcare providers. Early Childhood Intervention Trainings as well as Infant/Toddler Trainings are going to be held once a quarter for all our providers and their staff to attend and will get a certificate for one hour of training. Ms. Kayla Crowley, Board Childcare Director added they are still contracting with new daycares to help fill the need for slots.

Ms. Crystal Ojeda, Equus, Wichita Falls Center, announced they had 41 placements in June 2024 and 18 went to work. There were 57 placements in July and 35 went to work. They hosted their first Beat the Heat Wichita County Job Fair in Burkburnett, TX that had 58 employers and 173 job seekers show up. The Summer Earn and Learn program this year had 24 students, 26 worksites with 5 weeks paid work experience. Ms. Ojeda also shared they had a 90.56% positive feedback for the months of June and July from customer surveys.

Ms. Brittany Myles, Workforce Center Youth Case Manager, shared her success story about a young man, Joel. Joel had been withdrawn from school at the age of 13 due to custody issues and was left uneducated and closed off from the world for years. He had learned about the North Texas Works Program at a Region 9 GED orientation. His goals were to obtain his GED, find employment and continue his education. With the help of the North Texas Works program, and his case manager, Brittany Myles, Joel earned his GED on April 9, 2024. He also started working for the first time at Love's Travel Stop on June 5, 2024, making \$12/hr.

Mrs. Ball gave the Rapid Response report. There has been a total of 449 employees impacted from either a layoff or a closure since January 2024 to August 1, 2024.

Mrs. Little announced the next board meeting will be on October 24th, 2024, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenda Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Glenda Ramsey, Secretary