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## **Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes November 7, 2024**

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Board met at noon on Thursday, November 7, 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  
Michael Blevins, Tower Extrusions  
Lauren Bush, Seymour Economic Development Director  
Keri Goins, Childcare Partners  
Steve Holloway, Wichita Falls Trades and Labor Council  
Vicki Holland, Holland Land & Cattle  
Maria Jaimes-Contreras, 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  
Linda Whitaker, Archer Supply

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Marsha Anderson, Rolling Plains Management Corporation  
Dori Dockery, United Regional Health Care System  
Billy Clark, Helping Electra's Local People  
Mileasha Rizan, Work Services Corporation  
Jim Sjolander, Berend Brothers  
Scotty Sproles, NOV Fiber Glass Systems  
Dirk Welch, Midwestern State University  
Julie Young, Wichita Adult Literacy  
Michelle Wood, Wichita Falls ISD

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Donna Adams, Workforce Solutions Childcare  
Tiffany Jones, Workforce Solutions Childcare  
Sandi Stahr, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center  
Crystal Ojeda, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Cynthia Humphrey, Equus Wichita Falls Center

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Ginger Hannah, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Mary Havens, Workforce Solutions Childcare  
Sherry Dunn, Texas Veterans Commission  
Shana Ferguson, Nortex  
Xochitil Pruitt, Region 9  
Roberto Perez, Equus

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director  
Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager / EO Officer  
Kendra Ball, Business & Outreach Manager  
Karen Fite, Technology Manager  
Robin Read, IT Systems Support  
Dakota Mize, Community Engagement Specialist  
Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager  
Sydney Clement, Administrative Specialist / EO Officer

Mrs. Kristin Little, Madam Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. Instead of having roll call, everyone introduced themselves.

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 August 2024 Board meeting. Rhonda Schreiber made motion and Glenda Ramsey seconded (motion passed).

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director, announced the report for the nominations committee for the election of officers for our board. Mrs. Kristin Little, board chair, had appointed the nominations committee on October 16, 2024, that consisted of Jim Sjolander, Debbie Powell, Tony Alonzo and Mileasha Rizan and made their recommendations for the next officers. The nominations were Rhonda Schrieber as chair, Anthony Louis as vice chair and Linda Whitaker as secretary. Mrs. McDaniel asked if there would be any other nominations today and there were none. Mrs. Little asked for approval to have Rhonda Schrieber as the new chair. Tony Alonzo motioned, and Lauren Bush seconded (motion passed). Mrs. Little then asked for approval for Anthony Louis to be vice chair, Kenny Miller made a motion and Steve Holloway seconded (motion passed). Mrs. Little then went on to ask for approval for Mrs. Linda Whitaker to be our secretary, Vicki Holand made a motion and Lauren Bush second (motion passed).

Mrs. Kendra Ball, Marketing and Outreach Manager discussed the Education Committee—Target & In-Demand Lists. The education committee met on October 21, 2024, to discuss the changes. The In-Demand Industries has a list that was removed, a list that was added and a list that were complete. In-Demand Industries must have substantial growth over the next 10 years for us to include it as an In-Demand. No questions asked. Mrs. Little asked for a motion to pass the In-Demand Industries, Rhonda Schrieber made a motion and Anthony Louis seconded. (motion passed).

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Next, Mrs. Ball went over the In-Demand Occupations. They added definition for In - Demand Occupations that have a substantial number of open positions and advancement enough to have impact on state, regional or local economy. No questions asked. Mrs. Little asked for a motion to pass the In-Demand Occupations, Kenny Miller made a motion and Glenda Ramsey seconded (motion passed).

Mrs. Ball went on to go over the Target Occupation List. When the committee had looked over the list, they had to consider the substantial number of openings due to job growth rather than job turnover and the occupations that met the board self-sufficient wage. For our board it is typically \$33,822.38 annually (which equates to \$16.26 hourly at 40 hours for 52 weeks). Some of the occupations lacked sufficient data, so we were able to use the flexibility to use the local wisdom which was cited for occupations that have under-reported wages and for occupations with growth not reflected in projection data. These projections are based on 2023-2032. No questions asked. Mrs. Little asked for a motion, Tony Alonzo made a motion and Steve Hollaway seconded (motion passed).

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel then discussed the Board Budget & Expenditures for October 2024 – September 2025. We have not received the final numbers yet, but we have an estimate for last year's estimated expenditure, not much has changed. Some of the biggest changes were with the IT department, we had to upgrade our system for cyber security and include the cost of the vehicles for Child Care. No questions asked. Lauren Bush made a motion to approve the 2025 Board Budget and Rhonda Schreiber seconded (motion passed).

Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager / EO Officer, went over the Monitoring Committee starting with the Fiscal Integrity Evaluation. Our auditors, Diaz, Smith & Associates, found each of the five elements that must be reviewed were in compliance. No questions asked. Next, Sharon went over the Texas Workforce Commission visiting us last May, we received letters from them that included the Data Validation Results Reports. They had mentioned we did a good job. No questions asked. Another letter we received from Texas Workforce Commission for the review on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training program. There were no issues found. No questions asked. Next was the rest of the review for Child Care, Choices and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Employment Services and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. There were no issues found except one, The Bowie lease had expired back in March, they noted that as an error. We have already gone through steps to fix this since then. Another area of concern they had mentioned was that the Board should not be paying tax on hotel stays. Mrs. Hulcy then went over the Grant Spending Report. No questions asked. Next, was the Board Procurement List. No questions asked.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel went over three additional grants that we are waiting to hear from. The first one is the Innovation Grant. It was applied for back in September; we applied for an additional \$250,000 to work specifically with incarcerated individuals that are in our local county jails. That is to be awarded at this year's State conference, and we are hoping to receive it. This year the Texas Workforce Commission put out instead of putting out Board awards, since performances are hard to keep track of with the new systems, they wanted Boards to have additional funding to apply for. The county judges had approached Mrs. McDaniel about working with individuals and they wanted us to start coming into our local jails to speak to those who are incarcerated before they get out, so they'll be ready once they are released from jail to be able to get a job. She also shared that we have one judge that is court ordering his folks to come to the Workforce Center in Graham. With this funding, if we get this award, we can hire additional staff and focus on this population.



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The next grant is the Texas Intern Initiative Grant. We will partner with Burkburnett ISD and Wichita Falls ISD to recruit high school juniors and seniors that are in dual credit technical courses for their last semester of level one or two certification for a 12-week internship while they're in school. Our plan is to serve 20 students at each high school. We worked closely with the CTE programs and both ISD's, this is the first time we have done this. This money will allow us to be more flexible than just using regular WIOA funding because there are certain stipulations we must stay within percentage of serving in school youth compared to of out of school. They will be placed in a 12-week internship with something that is in their career goal. They will also receive a \$125 stipend each week while in the internship to help offset cost such as transportation, meals, etc. This grant will begin in March 2025. More to come on that in January. The last grant is the Teacher Externship Grant. This past summer we applied for one and were chosen and were able to serve 27 teachers. It was very successful, and we hope to get it again. This will also start in March, and we will get more information then. No questions asked.

Mrs. McDaniel then announced that the 2024 Governors Small Business Summit is on November 14<sup>th</sup> here in Wichita Falls at the MPEC. Our very own Kendra Ball, our Marketing and Outreach Manager along with a couple of board members Michelle Wood with WFISD CTE and Dirk Welch with Midwestern State University will be speaking that morning. We will also be having our Hiring Event Red, White & You at the Delta hotel across from the parking lot and Commissioner Joe Esparza from the Texas Workforce Commission will be attending both events that day. Board member, Maria Jaimes-Contreras from the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce announced that towards the end of the event they will be presenting the annual chamber awards to the winners.

Ms. Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager, announced the new TX3C system will be launched on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Donna Adams, WFS Child Care announced program updates. They have hired a new client service specialist, Gabriella Cook and are welcoming back TRS Mentor, Adela Sanjaun. As of October 1, 2024, there are 341 children waiting for childcare services and the estimated wait time for child care services is currently 3 to 4 months. Since September 2024 the total number of enrollments for children in care is 1,389 and a total of 60 new families. Child Care held a director's luncheon on September 25<sup>th</sup> where Dr. Del Rio from the ARC was a guest speaker and held a training session on Intellectual/ Developmental Disability (IDD)/Autism. There were 14 in-person attendees and 2 online. Child Care also had their quarterly Early Childhood Intervention Training (ECI) for all their providers and their staff to get a certificate for one hour of training.

Ms. Crystal Ojeda, Equus Wichita Falls Center, announced in September they had 90 people total that had entered employment and over 1,500 were served in October. The Event Results they have had since August have been great and successful. The Second Chance Job Fair from October 17<sup>th</sup> had 156 job seekers and 26 employers. Ms. Ojeda announced the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hiring Red, White & You event will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Hotel by Marriott in Wichita Falls. This is a great event we look forward to every year not only for the public but for our veterans as well. They held a City of Wichita Falls streets department hiring event and City of Wichita Falls for the water distribution & parks department. Both were successful. Next, she shared with us the outcome of the Jobs Y'all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair. We had 1,260 students, 111 school sponsors, 27 schools and 25 job occupations. We received great feedback from the teachers and students and look forward to hosting again next year.

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The 2024 Hire Ability Award this year went to the Beacon Lighthouse for the Blind and Work Service Corporation. This award recognizes employers that use innovative approaches to foster an inclusive workforce and Texans with disabilities. Ms. Ojeda also shared with us some positive feedback we had received from the public. One stated, "Everybody at TWC is very awesome and smart and caring and understanding and eager to help everyone who comes in thru their doors asking for help. It doesn't matter who or what. With a great big smile and a warm welcome in their voice. I pray for these wonderful ladies and gentlemen to be blessed always for their great support helping people. Thank you". Many more positive feedback was given by others.

Mrs. Kendra Ball, our Marketing and Outreach Manger went over the Layoffs, Closures and Rapid Response Report. There have been a lot of closures and layoffs this year. As of January, there were 19 employees receiving Rapid Response services and 697 employees impacted by either layoffs or closures. We have connected these businesses to TWC for the Shared Work Program, where if the business must cut hours significantly for their employees to avoid a layoff, unemployment can come in and supplement those wages. It helps the employer to retain their employees.

Mrs. McDaniel then presented a certificate of appreciation award to Mrs. Kristin Little as chair for Workforce Solutions North Texas 2023 – 2024.

Mrs. Little announced the next board meeting will be on December 12, 2024, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Whitaker". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line, and underneath that line, the name "Linda Whitaker, Secretary" is printed in a standard black font.

Linda Whitaker, Secretary