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## **Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes August 28, 2025**

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Board met at noon on Thursday, August 28, 2025, 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):

Michael Blevins, Tower Extrusions  
Lauren Bush, Seymour Economic Development Center  
Dr. Cheryl Groves, Groves Mechanical  
Vicki Holland, Holland Land & Cattle  
Maria Jaimes-Contreras, Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Kristin Little, American National Bank & Trust  
Billy Clark, Helping Electra's Local People  
Steve Holloway, Wichita Falls Trades and Labor Council  
Chelsea Lewis, Lewis Learning Center  
Anthony Louis, Pratt & Whitney  
Kenny Miller, Region 9  
Dirk Welch, Midwestern State University  
Jim Sjolander, Berend Brothers  
Linda Whitaker, Archer Supply  
Terry McAdams, MacTech Solutions  
Glenda Ramsey, Harper Perkins Architects  
Crystal Sanders, Texas Workforce Commission  
Rhonda Schriber, Humana  
Michelle Wood, Wichita Falls ISD  
Julie Young, Wichita Adult Literacy

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alicia Myrick, Child Care Partners  
Scotty Sproles, NOV Fiber Glass Systems  
Mileasha Rizan, Work Services Corporation  
Debbie Powell, Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation  
Toni Alonzo, Communities in Schools Greater Wichita Falls  
Marsha Anderson, Rolling Plains Management Corporation  
Dori Dockery, United Regional Health Care System

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Tiffany Jones, Workforce Solutions Childcare  
Shelly Donaldson, Workforce Solutions Child Care  
Donna Adams, Workforce Solutions Childcare

*Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards, forms Texas Workforce Solutions. Workforce Solutions North Texas is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: (800)735-2989 (TDD) or (800)735-2988(Voice) or 711*



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Sandi Stahr, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center  
Crystal Keel, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Cynthia Humphrey, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Ginger Hannah, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Tom Ostovitch, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Shana Ferguson, Nortex Regional Planning Commission  
Darla Silva, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Lisa Boyd, Equus Wichita Falls Center

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director  
Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager / EO Officer  
Kendra Ball, Business & Outreach Manager  
LeAnne Baird, Texas Regional Pathways Network Coordinator  
Karen Fite, Technology Manager  
Dakota Mize, Community Engagement Specialist  
Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager  
Sydney Clement, Administrative Assistant / EO Officer

Mrs. Rhonda Schrieber, Madam Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Everyone went around the room and online via Zoom to introduce themselves.

Mrs. Schrieber asked if there was anything for public comment. There was none.

Mrs. Schrieber asked for approval of the consent agenda and the minutes from the June 2025 Board meeting. Billy Clark made a motion to accept, and Michelle Wood seconded (motion passed).

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director, begins by discussing the 2026 Board Budget & Expenditures. She explained that we are coming in a little bit under than what we did last year, which is great as we have reviewed our expenditures and have been able to cut back on some, those including travel and memberships. There has been an increase in salaries that is included in this draft proposal where the state of Texas and the boards record of employer have recommended a 3% cost of living raise. We have not received all our contracts yet, but the proposed funding that the state has given us, the contracts that we have received, has been for this proposed amount. Mrs. McDaniel asked if there were any questions, there was one question about professional services. Mrs. Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager, answered that we have not spent that much on our Professional Services as is shown in the draft and we had overestimated last year. No more questions were asked. Mrs. Rhonda Schrieber asked for approval of the 2026 Board Budget & Expenditures. Billy Clark made a motion, and Glenda Ramsey seconded. (motion passed).

Mrs. Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager / EO Officer, discussed the Monitoring Committee. She shared Texas Workforce Commission sent a letter stating TWC's Equal Opportunity Compliance Department has completed our FY 2024 review for the Workforce Solutions North Texas. There were two findings. Two of the workforce solutions locations did not meet physical accessibility requirements under the Texas Government Code, Chapter

469. They have accepted the Corrective Action Plan submitted by Workforce Solutions North Texas to address these items. Next was the Allocation Addendum, there were no issues found. For the Fiscal Integrity Assessment, there were a few, little minor things found under category one that have already been received from Rolling Plains Management Corporation. Everything else was maturely in compliance. One question was asked how long the audit usually takes. The audit started in January 2025 as it can take a few months so the auditors can review everything they need to in a timely manner. No more questions were asked.

Mrs. Hulcy then went over the Grant Spending Report as of July 31<sup>st</sup>. No questions were asked. Next was the Procurement List, one question was asked about Amazon, asking if we didn't have to worry how much we spent on Amazon for supplies. Mrs. Hulcy explained that this Procurement List does include a 12-month purchase. She also explained that we do get three different quotes from three different places and compare prices when we are procuring items. We make procurements for everything from toilet paper to computers to ensure we are getting the best deal. No more questions were asked.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel then announced a few grants we are applying for. The first one is the 2026 Externships for Teachers Grant. We are aiming for 50 teachers for next year to be assigned to various worksites for a 10-day immersive experience to learn about different industries. The insights that are gained will be passed on to their students, enriching the educational experience. Each teacher will receive a \$2,500 stipend to help offset the cost of participation, along with an additional \$500 stipend for classroom supplies. This application is due on September 9<sup>th</sup> and the grant amount is \$200,000. The second grant is the 2026 Workforce Development & Safety Training Grant. This private grant is an opportunity to have more flexibility in spending and will help bridge the gap for individuals eager to work but who also require assistance with pre-employment costs such as obtaining a state ID, driver's license, birth certificates, social security cards, vaccinations and/or fingerprinting. The funds from this grant will also allow us to purchase bus passes and bicycles to facilitate transportation to and from work. The last grant we are applying for is the Workforce Readiness Training for CTE Students, that is due October 1<sup>st</sup>, we don't know yet of the award amount, this grant specifically benefits career and technical education students within our local ISD's where they would receive workforce readiness training, which encompasses essential soft skills like time management, professionalism, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking. To ensure the effectiveness of this grant, we will collaborate with both educational institutions and industry partners. This will help us align the grants objectives with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards and industry expectations. Mrs. LeAnne Baird, Texas Regional Pathways Network Coordinator, explained more on the purpose of the Workforce Readiness Training for CTE Students grant, this to ensure pathways are being successful for our students in all eleven counties that we serve and are looking for expertise.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel announced there are some upcoming board expirations at the end of September. She will be notifying those of their term coming up and to be expecting it soon.

Mrs. McDaniel then shared with everyone that she received a letter from the Texas Veterans Commission to congratulate Mr. Tom Ostovich, Equus Wichita Falls Center, on being recognized as the American Job Center (AJC) Business Service Unit (BSU) Team Member of the Year. They recognized him as an outstanding team member that partners with Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Veteran Employer Liaisons to provide employment, training, and placement services to veterans. Individuals nominated for a Performance Incentive

Award display outstanding customer service skills, communications, and collaboration with JVSG staff ensuring the success of all veterans served by the AJC.

Mr. Ostovich shared with everyone that the Win Co. Food hiring event will be taking place next week on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> at the Workforce Solutions Galaxy Center. It is going to be one of the biggest hiring events we have ever hosted, we are expecting between 500-600 people to apply. The second announcement Mr. Ostovich shared was that on October 9<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting the Second Chance Job Fair at Sikes Senter Mall and the Hiring Red, White & You event scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Next, Ms. Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager, spoke briefly about the Child Care Advisory Council Meeting that was held on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. She shared that there are a lot of events coming up this Fall as well as discussing the Child Care Quality budget and talked about plans they have to incentivize our Texas Rising Star center staff to complete their CDA program through Vernon college. She also shared about the new [EarlyChildhoodTexas.gov](http://EarlyChildhoodTexas.gov) website that includes resources for families as well as other resources available in our community for families and providers.

Mrs. Donna Adams, Workforce Solutions Child Care, shared program updates, including seven child care providers who became TRS Certified in July, those including Legacy Church dba Lion Club, YMCA afterschool program at Booker T Washington, YMCA afterschool program at City View Elementary, University Academy, Happy Hearts, Solid Rock Tiny Tots and Itty Bitty 2. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, there are 152 children on the waiting list for childcare services. The estimated wait time is currently 5-8 months. Mrs. Adams announced the next Director's Luncheon Training will be held on September 17, 2025, over Category 2: Teacher-Child Interactions. It will be presented by our very own TRS Mentors, Adela Sanjuan and Mark Cisneros.

Ms. Crystal Keel, Equus Wichita Falls Center, shared event results including the Beat the Heat Summer Job Fair that took place on July 10 in Iowa Park where they had 43 employers and 175 job seekers. She also announced for the month of June they had 38 38 placements and 25 went to work and for month of July there were 34 placements and 18 went to work. Ms. Keel shared a success story about a young woman named Shaquita, who participated in the Choices and WIOA Adult Program who was looking for a second chance. Workforce Solutions took the time to sit down and listen to her story and help her create a plan for success. She had enrolled in several classes that helped her build skills and confidence that she is able to use at her current job at Our Blood Institute. Ms. Shaquita made the comment, "Thanks to Workforce Solutions, I now have steady employment, a sense of direction, and the confidence to keep moving forward. I'm proof that with the right support, second chances are real — and success is possible".

Mrs. Keel lastly shared that she and Mrs. McDaniel rode the city bus on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, to gain firsthand insight into the daily experiences of public transit users. By immersing themselves in the journey, they were able to observe accessibility, comfort, safety, and service reliability from the customer's perspective. This activity is valuable because it fosters empathy, informs better decision-making, and helps identify areas for improvement that might not be visible from behind a desk.

Mrs. Kendra Ball, Business and Outreach Manager, shared the Rapid Response Report, Work Service Corporation had laid off 38 employees in June 2025 due to federal cuts, the good news, however, they were able to hire most of everyone back in July-August. A few places have posted closure, those including Mazzio's,



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Claire's and Chooch Axe Throwing. The last thing Mrs. Ball shared was the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce, The Greatest Force for Change. You can get more information on the chamber's website to see what's underway.

Mrs. Schrieber announced the next board meeting will be on October 23, 2025, at noon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Whitaker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Whitaker, Secretary