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## **Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes February 26, 2026**

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Board met at noon on Thursday, February 26, 2026, 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  
Michael Blevins, Tower Extrusions  
Lauren Bush, Seymour Economic Development Center  
Billy Clark, Helping Electra's Local People  
Dori Dockery, United Regional Health Care System  
Jeremy Geske, TWC Public Employment Sector  
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  
Alicia Myrick, Child Care Partners  
Debbie Powell, Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation  
Glenda Ramsey, Harper Perkins Architects  
Mileasha Rizan, Work Services Corporation  
Rhonda Schriber, Humana  
Jim Sjolander, Berend Brothers  
Scotty Sproles, NOV Fiber Glass Systems  
Dirk Welch, Midwestern State University  
Linda Whitaker, Archer Supply

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Cheryl Groves, Groves Mechanical  
Terry McAdams, MacTech Solutions  
Michelle Wood, Wichita Falls ISD  
Julie Young, Wichita Adult Literacy

### GUESTS PRESENT:

Sandi Stahr, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center  
Crystal Keel, Equus, Wichita Falls Center  
Ginger Hannah, Equus, Wichita Falls Center



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Dennis Wilde, Nortex Regional Planning Commission  
Darla Silva, Equus Wichita Falls Center  
Cathy Rainwater, 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  
Robin Read, Technology Asst. Manager  
Dakota Mize, Community Engagement Specialist  
Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager  
Sydney Clement, Administrative Assistant / EO Officer

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Mrs. Rhonda Schrieber, Madam Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm and did roll-call.

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

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

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

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director, discussed the Unemployment Insurance Weekly Work Search. Every year we are tasked with reviewing our minimum number of weekly work searches for unemployment and the state has set the target for three weekly work searches. As an individual board, we can either increase or lower that number based on local economic information, such as job postings and number of employers. On our data for our region, we feel that leaving it at three is sufficient, especially in our rural areas where there are plenty of opportunities for individuals when they are doing their work searches but also having workshops that can count as work searches too. Mrs. McDaniel asked the board if there were any questions for discussion. There was one question asked if we had changed this during Covid-19. Mrs. McDaniel stated that yes, the state eliminated all work search requirements during Covid-19. Mrs. Schrieber then asked for approval of the Unemployment Insurance Weekly Work Search. Billy Clark made a motion to accept it and to keep it at three weekly work searches, and Glenda Ramsey seconded. (motion passed).

Next, Mrs. Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager/EO Officer, discussed the audit resolution report letter we received in December 2025 from the Texas Workforce Commission stating the findings that were found last May have now been cleared. The finding issue was a PIRTS issue and corrective action has since been taken, and the finding is now closed. Texas Workforce Commission will still review this area going forward when they visit in May. Mrs. Hulcy announced we are currently having Equal Opportunity monitoring and that it will be in a future report once that is completed. She shared on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had a Child Care Technical



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Assistance visit with one of our vendors, the TX3C system and it was a very informative visit. We also discussed the audit report from Diaz, Smith & Associates on Rolling Plains Management Corporation. Diaz, Smith & Associates completed the audit on January 29, 2026, and no issues were found.

Diaz, Smith & Associates is currently working on their fiscal and program review to get us ready for their visit in May. Rolling Plains Management and Equus are working on uploading documents that are needed to get our report ready. Mrs. Hulcy announced Nortex Region Planning Commission is beginning the audit this month with Egin, Parkman, Fleming & Fleming, this also includes us, so we have been submitting items for that review as well. Summary reports from the Wichita Falls Workforce Center and Child Care of their QA reviews they have been doing; there were notes of improvements for the RESEA Program from the Workforce Center and Child Care had no issues in their reviews. In addition no disallowed costs were noted. Mrs. Hulcy shared a letter we received from Texas Workforce Commission on January 21<sup>st</sup> stating they had received our budget and expenditure information for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, they determined the information is in compliance and in good standing. It has been approved.

Next was the Board Spending Report, Mrs. Lisa McDaniel made a notation on account 33-1109 where there was a typo, it is supposed to say \$250,000 instead of \$25,000. That typo will be updated for the next board meeting. Mrs. Hulcy then shared that the Resource Administrative Grant; this is a contract that was issued to us from Texas Workforce Commission. It is showing a negative right now, but it will be positive at the next board meeting. Mrs. McDaniel explained that this is for individuals that work in the tax office locally for Texas Workforce Commission and meet with employers to discuss things and they use our office space as they have for several years. At first, they had announced they were not going to pay for our office space, but the issue has now been resolved and that is what this grant is for and that we would be receiving funding for those individuals who occupy the space from time to time to meet with employers on their tax accounts.

Next was the Procurement List, and no questions asked. Mr. Louis did ask how we are feeling about audit season coming u?. Mrs. McDaniel stated that we feel good and are ready.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel discussed the grants we had applied for in early Fall 2025. In January we were selected for the 2026 Teacher Externship award, and we have our first meeting with the contractors tomorrow to discuss the application process. The application process has changed a little differently this year, as we know right now, more information will be going out to schools soon for those that are interested. The next award we won was the Innovation Grant awarding us \$250,000. Mrs. McDaniel then shared the exciting news we were invited by the Texas Workforce Commission to speak at the 2026 Workforce Forum in Austin, TX, because of our groundbreaking innovative award. The theme of the forum this year is "Impact", Texas Workforce Commission said they believe our Board's work would be incredibly valuable to other attendees at the conference sharing with them how we identified the need, partnership the development, what initial steps we took and what was the expected impact. Mrs. Kendra Ball, Business and Outreach Manager and Mrs. LeAnne Baird, Texas Regional Pathways Network Coordinator, will both be attending the forum May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, presenting to the state on our initiative that we won.

Mrs. McDaniel announced we are currently on the lookout for employers to use for the Innovation grant. Mrs. Kendra Ball explained how we will be using the same technology that you use for "virtual" tours to explore worksites so students can experience what is available at different types of workplaces. We are currently

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working on a procurement to hire a company to help make the videos, produce them and upload to a platform but also allowing us to go into workplaces to set up 360 cameras to make “virtual” tours and adding “pop-ups” throughout the worksite showing students everything that is available to them with supportive information and what there is to do at that workplace. One question was asked if we had ideas on what industries we were exploring for worksites to use. We are looking at anything that is in high demand industries and that may not be accessible for in-person tours. Mrs. LeAnne Baird added, from our last board meeting, on our Target & Occupations List there are high-in-demand jobs that we know we can get students into and that also align with our CTE Program that our schools are doing and this will be taking it from a classroom to a business and relieving that pressure off of the workplaces from having to host “in-person tours” but still making that connection to our students.

Mrs. McDaniel shared a couple of weeks ago we, along with four other Boards, were invited to a regional meeting in Denton, TX, those Boards included Dallas, Tarrant, North Central and Texoma. Mrs. McDaniel got to meet with the leadership of the Texas Workforce Commission along with the new Executive Director, Steve Pier, the Chair of Texas Work Commission, Joe Esparza and other leaderships of the workforce division, performance division and our childcare division. They also asked each Board office to bring a program specialist and a childcare specialist to join the meeting as well. Along with Mrs. McDaniel at the regional meeting was our Contract Manger, Mrs. Sharon Hulcy and Ms. Kayla Crowley our Child Care Contract Manager. We were able to meet with the other Boards prior to the meeting to ensure our discussion was heard and to go over the points of the agenda. Mrs. McDaniel stated that items discussed at the regional meeting was from over the last two years that our new Chair of the Workforce Commission has heard a lot of concerns about from Workforce Board about the systems we have in place, and he wanted to hear our thoughts and concerns and sit down with all of us. We were able to provide them with what support we needed from them and what needs to happen. This was a very good meeting, and we are hopeful of seeing some good changes.

Lastly, Mrs. McDaniel announced it was time for our Workforce Contractor Procurement. It has been five years since the last one. This is currently being worked on and will be released no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> with a target date to take action at our June Board Meeting but the new contract will start on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that we typically get three evaluators to look at the proposals, and we will have more information to come soon. Mrs. McDaniel shared there are a couple of staff members at our Board office looking at possible retirement in the next year or several years and succession planning is on-going. Mrs. McDaniel asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Next, Mrs. Kendra Ball, Business & Outreach Manager, discussed the Rapid Response Report. FedEx in Wichita Falls located on Southridge announced on January 9<sup>th</sup> this location was closing. Twelve of fourteen employees were able to move to the Fisher location and two retired with severance pay. Subway restaurants in both Iowa Park and Vernon, owned by the same manager, closed their doors on January 12<sup>th</sup> due to financial reasons. Francesca’s, located in Sikes Senter Mall, announced closure on January 22<sup>nd</sup> due to financial reasons, but the closing date is still to be determined. Lastley, House of D’aroma, also located in Sikes Senter Mall closed on January 28<sup>th</sup> due to not having any more employees.

Ms. Kayla Crowley, Child Care Contract Manager, discussed the Child Care Report. She first shared we have two new employees with our Child Care department, Mrs. Isabel Vera, our new Financial Specialist, she has ten

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years of experience in billing and financial processes and is a great addition to the department. Our second new employee is Mrs. Karen Reed, Texas Rising Star Mentor, she has been in public education for over 20 years and worked in districts across Texas and will now be assisting our other Texas Rising Star mentors.

As of February 17<sup>th</sup>, we currently have 207 children waiting for childcare services. The estimated wait time for childcare services is currently 6 to 8 months. The total number of children enrolled at the end of January 2026 was 1,117 with a total of 39 new referrals. Mrs. McDaniel added we are going to try and empty our waitlist, by what is called “flash placements”. This is where our childcare staff will stay open and work on a Saturday and Sunday to allow parents an opportunity to turn their paperwork and necessary documents in, instead of them having to leave their jobs during the week. This will help ensure every child is removed from the waitlist and placed in childcare. Mrs. McDaniel added we have done this before in the past and it has been successful. One question was asked if there is an average capacity in childcare. The answer is yes; it does depend on the childcare facility, but it also depends on numerous things such as, the age of the child and how many children that center has in that particular age appropriate classroom, if the parent is self-pay or on a scholarship, and also if that childcare center has the correct number of teachers that have confidence to be in that classroom, such as an infant class room. Ms. Crowley then shared the Infant and Toddler Trainings are still being held once a month, the last training was held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with 21 in-person attendees. The next two Infant and Toddler Trainings will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Crowley announced they had a Child Care Advisory Council meeting yesterday and there is a lot of different community events coming up in March and April. They also met with Together for Children a couple of weeks ago, a professional development team from Austin, TX. The Texas Child Care Leadership Academy are classes where directors and assistance directors can receive resources and gain knowledge on how to retain their childcare staff. We are going to be offering this to our providers; however, those providers must be Texas Rising Star certified. They cannot be in-home providers, and they must have a facility or work for a facility to be eligible to participate in this program. This is free to the director and assistant directors where they offer in-person and virtual meetings. We will be reaching out to Texas Workforce Commission to get this program approved. Texas Workforce Commission has also launched a Texas Child Care Business Support Initiative for more professional development opportunities for our childcare leaders and staff to go through training from business model to business coaching for free to them. A question was asked if these classes would count for the directors on the management side, the answer is yes.

Ms. Crowley announced there have been policy updates with Texas Workforce Commission coming out soon for fraud and high-risk providers, because of the incidents that have happened in Minnesota. All the states, including Texas, have been making sure those same incidents are not happening to our childcare facilities. Our Texas Rising Star mentors and assessors are in and out of our providers’ facilities all the time, and once they do the observations, we then get monthly reports for providers in our area. So far, our reports have been clean.

We are also working on attendance with our childcare facilities making sure our parents and providers are “checking in” their kids accordingly each day. Our providers have different applications and systems that communicate with our TX3C Kinder Connect system. Kinder Connect is currently working with our providers to alleviate any issues that they may be having. We get a weekly report for attendance tracking and if the provider does not comply with attendance and making sure they are logging attendance weekly, then that



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provider is put on a SIA (Service Improvement Agreement) where it pauses payments until that provider is complying and tracking attendance accordingly.

Next, Ms. Crystal Keel, Equus Wichita Falls, introduced the newest member of her leadership team, Mrs. Cathy Rainwater. Mrs. Rainwater has been with Workforce Solutions North Texas for 17 years. Ms. Keel then shared in December where we served 1,027 employers and 154 employees. We had 51 placements, 16 went to work and 67 entered employment in the month of December. We had 137 job seekers at our Vernon Travel Center Hiring event on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Our biggest summer community job fair is coming up on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the MPEC center in Wichita Falls, more information coming soon. One question was asked how many were employed from the Vernon Travel Center Hiring event, we were told between 60-80 jobs were offered.

Ms. Keel then shared her employee spotlight featuring Mrs. Deborah at our Bowie office. Deborah exemplifies dedication and versatility in her role, going above and beyond to advocate for her customers who often face significant barriers. Her commitment, adaptability and team-oriented mindset make her an outstanding candidate for recognition.

Our success story is about Randolph, who came to Workforce Solutions North Texas after being terminated from his last place of employment where he worked as a maintenance technician. He was concerned about his living expenses and wanted to find a job quickly. He used our resource room computers to perform job searches and our Workforce Development Specialist, Candy Dewey, and Workforce Experience participant, Ariana, helped him navigate his job search in WorkinTexas.com and provided application assistance. He began employment within the next two days at AlSCO. Randolph's success story is a testament that Workforce Solutions North Texas has the staff and available resources to help those who need assistance. The last report was about the survey results with a score of 92.43% positive feedback.

Mrs. Schrieber announced the next board meeting will be on April 23, 2026, at noon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Whitaker*

[Linda Whitaker \(Mar 20, 2026 07:37:39 CDT\)](#)

Linda Whitaker, Secretary