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Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2026

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Board met at noon on Thursday, April 30, 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
Michael Blevins, Tower Extrusions
Lauren Bush, Seymour Economic Development Center
Billy Clark, Helping Electra's Local People
Dr. Cheryl Groves, Groves Mechanical
Jeremy Geske, TWC Public Employment Sector
Chelsea Lewis, Lewis Learning Center
Anthony Louis, Pratt & Whitney
Vicki Holland, Holland Land & Cattle
Kristin Little, American National Bank & Trust
Alicia Myrick, Child Care Partners
Debbie Powell, Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation
Glenda Ramsey, Harper Perkins Architects
Rhonda Schriber, Humana
Dirk Welch, Midwestern State University
Michelle Wood, Wichita Falls ISD
Scotty Sproles, NOV Fiber Glass Systems
Julie Young, Wichita Adult Literacy

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Marsha Anderson, Rolling Plains Management Corporation
Dori Dockery, United Regional Health Care System
Steve Holloway, Wichita Falls Trades and Labor Council
Maria Jaimes-Contreras, Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce
Terry McAdams, MacTech Solutions
Kenny Miller, Region 9
Mileasha Rizan, Work Services Corporation
Jim Sjolander, Berend Brothers
Linda Whitaker, Archer Supply

GUESTS PRESENT:

Donna Adams, Rolling Plains, Workforce Solutions Childcare
Mark Cisneros, Rolling Plains, Workforce Solutions Childcare



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Sandi Stahr, Equus, Workforce Solutions Center
Crystal Burns, Equus, Wichita Falls Center
Ginger Hannah, Equus, Wichita Falls Center
Shana Ferguson, Nortex Regional Planning Commission
Dennis Wilde, Nortex Regional Planning Commission
Darla Silva, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Cathy Rainwater, Equus Wichita Falls Center
Doug Cotter, CEO Equus
Luz Espinal, Equus Wichita Falls Center

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Mrs. Rhonda Schrieber, Madam Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm and did roll-call. Mrs. Schrieber introduced our guest, Mr. Doug Cotter, CEO of Equus and online we had Chytania Brown, Vice President of Operations with Equus, James Young, Texas Director with Equus and David Yocum with Texas Workforce Commission.

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 February 2026 Board meeting. Billy Clark made a motion to accept, and Michelle Wood seconded (motion passed).

Mrs. Sharon Hulcy, Contract Manager, shared the Monitoring Report by first letting everyone review the Procurement List. No questions were asked. Next was the Board Spending Report where there were no questions asked. Mrs. Hulcy announced the Monitoring Committee met yesterday and is preparing for the Texas Workforce Commission visit next week. There are primarily questionnaires on programs and item requests more from the board level, to include disbursements and procurements. Mrs. Hulcy shared during the meeting yesterday there is still no update to our Equal Opportunity monitoring report that was submitted back in February. Our childcare department is having to start a new monitoring of providers where the state provides the list of providers that have higher flags in potential areas at risk. We only must do 10% per year, we submitted our plan for approval, and it will start in May.



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The rest of the monitoring committee meeting was going over the Diaz, Smith & Associates reports that they have prepared for Texas Workforce Commission monitoring visit next week. The reports go over the Equus Financial review from February 2025 – December 2025, in which there were no findings. The Rolling Plains Management Corporation Financial review for the same period, in which no findings were found. Next, the Equus Program Monitoring Report review from January 2025 – December 2025, for their Choices, WIOA Eligibility Support Services and Individual Training Accounts, of which there were no findings. There were two findings in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP E&T), where form H1817 was not completed and submitted to HHSC for a reconsideration request. The second finding was a penalty was not initiated for noncompliance, if applicable, in four of the seventeen applicable cases. There was one finding with our Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA), where four of six applicable cases of the WF-42 were not sent and documents were not in accordance with guidance. This is where we are supposed to outreach unemployment insurance participants that meet a job search, if that participant fails to meet the plan that is set up, then we must notify WFUI with certain forms such as the WF-42. Mrs. Hulcy shared any of the items in the Equus Program reviews that Diaz, Smith & Associates gave with any area of concern or finding we will put together and get back to strengthening our items. One question was asked if this is a training problem, the answer is we have had some turnover in the SNAP programs specifically, so training, yes, is an ongoing thing. This particular finding from this year compared to last year's findings is different because; last year the finding had to be specified specifically in a case note with the date it was sent over to HHSC and if it wasn't laid out like that then it was considered an error. Any time a SNAP participant comes in, and they report they have a medical issue or employment then we are to send over that reconsideration, we are not to question how many hours that they are saying their job is. No more questions were asked.

Next, Mrs. Hulcy went over the program review for Rolling Plains for January 2025 – December 2025, there were no findings for DFPS or PIRTS. There were four findings in eligibility, two of which have already been resolved. The first finding was income not being calculated correctly, the second finding was the subsidy amount recorded did not equal the amounts authorized. This is on the providers side and with payments, so if we miscalculated something for example, parent share of cost (PSOC) or their income, that affects what the providers are being paid as well or what the parents are responsible for. The third finding was an initial job search (IJS) or activity interruption where it was incorrectly authorized or did not discontinue as required. This was a potentially questioned cost because the client had entered an activity interruption, but no documentation verified the clients return from work and the child had remained in care without confirmation of ongoing eligibility. The last finding was a potential question cost where care was not terminated timely; possible overpayments where the provider reported the older child stopped attending but care was not terminated at a later date. All four findings have been resolved.

There was also a follow-up review prior to last year determining if the parent was eligible for the program or not which was from working the required hours. Due to not meeting the work requirement hours, Rolling Plains Management Corporation will recoup the cost of care in the amount of \$2,972.00. as the customer was not eligible for services. One question was asked if the recoupment amount has any taxes or penalties, there are no penalties, this is the amount the provider received for this service that they shouldn't have had and they have to supply those funds out of non-federal funds. One question was asked about what childcare uses for calculations, the answer is they use paystubs and that goes into a formula to figure out what the average pay is for the month and for the parent's average hours they worked would determine their income.

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Another question was asked, how does childcare verify employment without paystubs, the answer is we must ask for additional information from the parent such as unemployment verification form or the work number. No more questions asked.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director then went over the agenda by first sharing with everyone the 2025 Annual Reports have been sent out, thanking Kendra Ball, our Business & Outreach Manager and Dakota Mize, our Community Engagement Specialist for their hard work and time for putting this report together and thanking the workforce center, childcare and vocational rehabilitation for the incredible content within. Mrs. McDaniel shared that Edgin, Parkman, Fleming & Fleming audit is currently taking place, it's the annual review of our fiscal agent which is Nortex Regional Planning Commission. No issues have been reported at this time. Next, was the request for proposal 2026 for the Workforce Center Services Management and Operations. We are on a regular schedule, and it is time to go out for procurement. The request for proposals was sent out on March 31st and is due May 14th at 4PM. Mrs. McDaniel asked for a minimum of three volunteer evaluators to read this proposal once it's received, the action will be taken at the June 25th board meeting. The negotiation transition period is then from June 25th – September 30th and then that contract starts October 1st. Glenda Ramsey, Toni Alonzo, Dirk Welch and Dr. Cheryl Groves as alternate volunteered to be the evaluators. Mrs. McDaniel discussed Child Care Services and Operations, this is out of the cycle, but it has been determined to go out for procurement for this contract at this time, this proposal request will be out soon. Once we know the date it will be posted to our website under business opportunities and the Texas bid board, which is the ESBD (Electronic State Business Daily). Evaluators will be needed sometime in June for the CC RFP and then that will require a special board meeting in July for voting as the contract is to start on October 1st. No questions asked. Dr. Cheryl Groves, Anthony Louis, Rhonda Schrieber and Michelle Wood as alternate volunteered to be the evaluators once needed.

Mrs. McDaniel shared Texas Workforce Commission has sent out new childcare policy updates that pertain to fraud and attendance tracking, these are new requirements that we are currently addressing with the contractor for implementation. Parents and providers have been notified of these changes; we continue to have those challenges with the TX3C system but report those to Texas Workforce Commission technical assistance to come in and assist the staff with any issues. It's critical that the providers are taken care of and the children are served. One question was asked, when fraud is on the parent's part, what are the repercussions for that and are legal actions taken? The answer is, yes, there is legal action where we are required to create a fraud case and do an investigation, that then would go to the district attorney's office, and the State would prosecute where the parent(s) could serve jail time. Another question was asked if there was a specific amount for prosecution, the answer is yes, it is over \$15,000 and benefits would get suspended. That would be the parents' side but there is also fraud on the providers' side, which we have not had any. The State sends out a list of providers that are considered high-risk that have been flagged, we have had one that has shown up on that list and have done our part of investigation, and it turned out to be nothing. One question was asked if there was a prosecution for providers, the answer is yes, it's basically a termination of their contract. If there is fraud taking place, then we must immediately terminate the contract with that provider and be in touch with TWC with the investigation.

Next, Mrs. McDaniel shared both the Teacher Externship and our Summer Earn and Learn Program will start in June. We have 35 teachers that have been selected for the externship and are currently working on the onboarding to be done. Our target for the Summer and Learn Program is to have 22 students this year.

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Worksites are currently being developed for those by our Business Service team, and that we have received 20 referrals so far. Mrs. McDaniel announced that the remainder of reports for Childcare, Workforce, and Rapid Response will not be discussed at this meeting, but they are in the packet for review. Mrs. Kendra Ball, Business & Outreach Manager and Mrs. LeAnne Baird, Texas Regional Pathways Network Coordinator gave a short version of their presentation that they will be giving at the 2026 Texas Workforce Commission Forum in May to showcase the Innovation award we won in December 2025.

Mrs. Ball began the presentation by sharing how they came up with the idea. The grant that Mrs. LeAnne Baird is running, Texas Regional Pathways Network (TRPN) had to do surveys. When we had our Youth Career Fair in March that served over 1,200 students, we were able to receive surveys from those students and teachers to tell us that we need more career exploration. In response to this feedback from educational institutions, we pursued a solution that addresses requirements while maintaining cost-effectiveness. Commercial career tools are typically expensive, prompting us to collaborate with local businesses to develop a resource enabling students to learn from and engage with high-demand industries in North Texas. The technology we will be using is called NVR360, it will create interactive 360 tours of local worksites, featuring industry-validated content at a low, predictable annual hosting cost. Career360 will be able to read to you and does have closed captioning options and visuals. We just wrapped up our first video walk through at Pruitt Ford. We have also secured Community Health Care, Wichita Falls Fire Department, Beacon Lighthouse and much more. Not only will this grant be covering the production, but it will also go towards the career toolboxes we have created and our other programs such as Job's Y'all, the Transition Fair, Summer Earn & Learn (SEAL) and the Teacher Externship Program.

Mrs. Baird then shared the Career Toolboxes; these are created with input from industry experts and are designed to support career exploration in classrooms. Normally students will go in and tour a facility, but that is disruptive to class time. The idea is to bring the exploration away from the worksite so our older students can still have their class time, and our younger students are able to have career exploration much sooner. Right now, we have 13 industries, including animal science, auto mechanics and much more. We are in the process of developing curriculum that will be available in various ability levels to accommodate students from kindergarten to 12th grade. We did reach out to our industries to get ideas to let us know what we need to include in these toolboxes and what these students need to know. The impact this is going to have on students, educators, employers and the workforce is industry exposure and informed decision making for kids connecting classrooms to real life. Not only will this Career360 will be available virtually 24 hours, but educators will be able to borrow these ready-to-use toolboxes, and they can facilitate tours independently in the classrooms. For our employers they will gain visibility with minimal disruption, showcase small and large local industry and influence local talent development and will limit the liability issue. The overall benefit, we are gearing this towards our students but it can be integrated into any workforce program, for example, if we a customer in the RESEA program that is looking for a job change and they are thinking about manufacturing, we can then introduce them to Career 360 to help them make a better decision if they want to or not.

One question was asked how we are marketing this to educators. The answer is we have not started yet; we have only started our first video this week, but we will probably start at the orientation for the Teacher Externship. We are going to make sure they have access to the toolboxes and show them the 360 tours, because we don't

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have any of our videos launched yet, we have not started marketing. We have, however, loaded our toolboxes onto our website where educators can request for us to bring one or they can “check out”.

Another question was asked whether any of the rural areas will be included in the 360 tours, the answer is yes, we are looking for volunteers. A question was asked whether this would be available outside the ISD, such as daycare centers. Yes, it will be available. No more questions were asked.

Next, Mrs. Crystal Burns, Equus Wichita Falls center, shared the employee spotlight. Luz, from our Student HireAbility Navigator successfully contacted 32 school districts to support outreach for the Teacher Externships program. She has established a strong working relationship with numerous organizations and school staff across the North Texas area. In addition, she assisted with the organization and inventory of the Career Tool kits and ensured their timely distribution in schools.

Mrs. Schrieber announced the next board meeting will be on June 25, 2026, at noon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Whitaker

Linda Whitaker, Secretary

Signature: Linda Whitaker
Linda Whitaker (Jun 4, 2026 14:38:17 CDT)