

**Workforce Solutions - Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Operations Committee Minutes
August 9, 2021**

I. CHAIR ROBERT FITZPATRICK CALLED THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:05 P.M.

MR. FITZPATRICK ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED MARCH 16, 2020, REGARDING SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETING LAWS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS COMMITTEE MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING WEB LINK. HE ALSO SAID THE MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND THE OPEN SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

AFTER THE ROLL CALL, MR. FITZPATRICK CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:

Members Present: Joe Clyde Adams, Rebekah Burkhalter, Robert Fitzpatrick, Ethan Herr, Malcolm Ifoezeh, Marisa Phillips

Members Absent: Gregg Durham, Phyllis Grandgeorge, Randall Roberts, Jessica Rogers, John White

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Debb Homman, Karen Stubblefield, Sarah Milligan, James Parry

Visitors: Michelle Kennedy, Shakia Roberts, Billy Reddick, Paul Dunn, Monica Peters-Clark, LaTreaser Cartwright

CHAIR ROBERT FITZPATRICK REMINDED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Robert Fitzpatrick asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict and send it to the Board staff for recordkeeping.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand introduced James Parry, who has joined the board staff as Workforce Career and Education Outreach Specialist. He also acknowledged the staff members of the Workforce and CCS contractors who were in attendance.

II. Public Comments
None

III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2021

Motion: Ethan Herr made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Second: Joe Clyde Adams
In Favor: All
Oppose: None
Abstain: None
Motion: Passes

IV. Discussion/Possible Action
A. Action Item 21-17 Child Care Policy

Mark Durand and Debb Homman discussed the Board policy changes were made to align with the Texas Workforce Commission WD Letters. On a temporary basis, three months of child care is available for children of parents searching for a job. Additionally, the new COVID-19 Service Industry Recovery (SIR) child care program is intended to help low-wage workers in TWC-specified service industries. While TWC is targeting aspects of the service sector with SIR child care, all families continue to have access to TWC's regular low-income child care subsidy program. TWC will consider SIR workers under the definition of "protective services child care" in the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan.

Motion: Joe Clyde Adams made the motion to approve the policy changes as presented.
Second: Ethan Herr
In Favor: All
Oppose: None
Abstain: Marissa Phillips
Motion: Passes

Marissa Phillips declared a conflict of interest.

B. Open Session Action, if any, as a result of Closed Session
None

V. Board Reports

A. Workforce Center Report

Billy Reddick reported that Dynamic is currently meeting or exceeding 18 of 20 performance measures as of the May 2021 MPR. The measures not being met are the WIOA Employed Q2 Post Exit-DW - Target 73.50%. Current Performance 64.20%, which is 87.35% of target; and the Employed/Enrolled Q2 Post Exit - C&T Participants -Target-65.60%. Current performance is 59.12%, which is 90.12% of target. LaTreasor Cartwright explained that strategies continue to serve rural counties, and as of July, the team implemented a virtual resource room through which 15 individuals have been assisted.

B. Child Care Services Report

The contractor is currently meeting performance. Michelle Kennedy noted there are 99 providers in the region, and CCS has contracts with 78, and there are additional agreements with eight out-of-area providers, for a total of 86 provider agreements. CCS, Workforce and the board staff collaborated on industry-specific child care job fairs to help address the shortage of child care workers. Debb Homman reported that 24 Texas Rising Star providers and the TRS staff attended professional development training through Frog Street, and additional training is scheduled for October 20 at the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. The Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas TRS banquet is scheduled for October 2 in Nacogdoches.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Robert Fitzpatrick adjourned the Operations Committee Meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 4th day of November 2021


Robert Fitzpatrick, Chair

Attest


Karen Stubblefield, Operations Manager