

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
Business Services Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023

I. CHAIR TYANE DIETZ CALLED THE BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:31 P.M.

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ ANNOUNCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION (WD LETTER 28-19) DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2019, REGARDING THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 551 ALLOWING THE USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING AS A METHOD FOR CONDUCTING BOARD MEETINGS, THE BOARD IS PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE AND VIA VIRTUAL MEETING WEB LINK. SHE ALSO SAID THE MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND THE OPEN SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST. PRESIDING OFFICER, TYANE DIETZ, WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT.

AFTER THE ROLL CALL, MS. DIETZ CONFIRMED THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT:

Members Present: Lisa Balty, TJ Colwell, Tyane Dietz, Tim Ditoro, Eddie Hopkins, Matthew Lowery, Quincy Martindale, Benjamin Mott

Members Absent: Wayne Haglund, Staci Hodges, Anita Humphreys, Rich Scott

Board Staff Present: Mark Durand, Jeff Eichman, Josh Fleming, Anna Holderberg, Debb Homman, Lauren Phipps, Maribel Soto-Mendoza, Karen Stubblefield

Visitors: Scott Amey, Jessica Blair, Rhonda Cartwright, Mark Christie, Monica Peters-Clark, Shakia Roberts

CHAIR TYANE DIETZ REMINDED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION.

Chair Tyane Dietz asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration regardless of whether they have a conflict and send the form to Board Staff.

WELCOME OF GUESTS:

Mark Durand introduced the newest Board staff, Mr. Jeff Eichman. Mr. Eichman will fill the Regional Convener Lead position. Mr. Durand also noted that Board staff, Josh Fleming, is transitioning from Workforce Career and Education Outreach Specialist to the Tri-Agency TEA grant Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

II. Public Comments

None

III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023

Motion: Benjamin Mott made the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Matthew Lowery

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

IV. Information and Briefing Items

A. Child Care Business Services Update

The Child Care Business Industry Specialist's (CCBIS) overall goal is to increase capacity of child care placements by fostering relationships with child care providers and assisting them with business development needs. Ms. Holderberg, CCBIS, has met with 67 child care providers to date, who all have various needs and issues to address, including start-up operation and struggling to remain open. The most common and critical barriers child care providers are facing are staffing and quality of workforce. Ms. Dietz noted that staff turnover is a large cost for businesses that is not always obvious but does exist. In order to address the issue of turnover and staffing, Ms. Holderberg provides coaching on how to create attractive job postings on online platforms and encourages providers to use TWC grants to increase compensation offers and benefits. Ms. Holderberg also continues to encourage child care providers to explore partnerships with ISDs, charter schools and private schools in their area in order to qualify for pre-k and expansion grants. Ms. Holderberg will continue to meet and build relationships with the owners/directors over the next months, as well as creating and strengthening partnerships.

V. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Action Item 23-10 Employer Awards

The Texas Workforce Commission has requested nominations to recognize the exceptional work of Texas private-sector employers that operate a business in the local workforce development area, and that are in good standing overall and, specifically, with the Texas Workforce Commission Tax department. The Board requested nominations in the categories of Small Employer, Large Employer, Veteran-Friendly, and Local Employer of Excellence from the workforce contractor, Board members, economic developers, and chambers of commerce. The Business Services Committee reviewed and discussed multiple employers for each category. The Committee based their nominations of the employers' use of WorkinTexas.com for job postings, the employers' partnership with Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas (WSDet), and the employers' utilization of WSDet services.

1. Small Employer of the Year

Motion: Lisa Balty made the motion to nominate Shady Acres Health & Rehab - Newton for Small Employer of the Year.

Second: Benjamin Mott

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: Tim Ditoro

Motion: Passes

Tim Ditoro abstained from voting on Small Employer of the Year due to conflict of interest.

2. Large Employer of the Year

Motion: Lisa Balty made the motion to nominate GVCS – Whataburger East Texas for Large Employer of the Year.

Second: Benjamin Mott

In Favor: All (except Eddie Hopkins)

Oppose: Eddie Hopkins

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

Eddie Hopkins opposed because his vote was for STI Group. Tyane Dietz recommended STI Group be considered for Local Employer of Excellence.

3. Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to nominate Lockheed Martin for Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year.

Second: Matthew Lowery

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: TJ Colwell, Tim Ditoro

Motion: Passes

TJ Colwell and Tim Ditoro abstained from voting on Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year due to conflict of interest.

4. Local Employer of Excellence

Motion: Eddie Hopkins made the motion to nominate STI Group for Local Employer of Excellence.

Second: Benjamin Mott

In Favor: All

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Passes

Prior to motion to nominate STI Group for Local Employer of Excellence, Lisa Balty made a motion to nominate Legacy Institute for Financial Education (LIFE), but there was no second and motion died due to no second.

B. Open Session Action, if any, as a result of Closed Session

None

VI. Reports

A. Business Services Initiatives

Due to length of time spent on discussion of Employer Awards, the Business Services Committee tabled the Business Services report and requested for staff to present report at the upcoming Board meeting.

VII. Take Up Other Action, As Needed

Ms. Balty requested board members to participate in the SFA employer feedback survey. She also thanked the members that had completed the survey.

VIII. Adjourn

Lisa Balty made the motion to adjourn the Business Services Committee Meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 7th *day of* August *2023*

Tyane Dietz
Tyane Dietz, Chair

Attest

Lauren Phipps
Lauren Phipps, Planning and Policy Specialist