

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
Board Meeting Minutes
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B, Lufkin, TX 75901
August 11, 2025

- I. Presiding officer, Ellen Mills, was physically present and called the Board Meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.**
- A. Chair Ellen Mills confirmed that a quorum was present and introduced new members Cindy Neal and Cory Blaylock.**
Members Present: Lisa Balty, Cory Blaylock, Ashley Courtney, Tyane Dietz, Eddie Hopkins, Anita Humphreys, Garvey Jackson, Melody Jenkins, Gene Lee, Matthew Lowery, Kelli Marshall, Ellen Mills, Benjamin Mott, Cindy Neal, Marisa Phillips, John White
- A. Chair Ellen Mills reminded the committee members of the conflict of interest declaration and asked that all members sign a conflict of interest declaration if they have a conflict with a specific Action Item and give to Board staff for recordkeeping.**
- B. Welcome of Guests:** Richard Rudel and Susan Murrel of Alexander, Lankford & Heirs
- II. Public Comments:** None
- III. Discussion/Action: Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2025**
Motion made by Tyane Dietz
Seconded by Lisa Balty
Motion Passed
- IV. Board Members Comments on Activity in their Respective Areas:** Lisa Balty reported a new food establishment, Layne's Chicken Fingers, opening this week in Nacogdoches. ALDI, which will be located in the old Big Lots building in Nacogdoches, is projected to open in October. Ms. Balty also reported that Stephen F. Austin State University has a \$350,000,000 impact on Nacogdoches County and the City of Nacogdoches. Eddie Hopkins acknowledged the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce for hosting a beneficial luncheon regarding education, training, and workforce readiness.
- V. Executive Director's Report**
Dr. Cauthen reported on new and updated agreements, performance, staff contacts and coordination activities, rules and legislative updates, funding updates, and other activity and administrative matters not requiring action by the Board.
- VI. Committee Reports**
- A. Executive/Finance Committee**
- 1. Discussion/Possible Action**
- a. Action Item 25-24 Monitoring Policy**
Board staff asked for approval of the Monitoring and Oversight Policy as presented.
Motion made by Executive/Finance Committee
Seconded by Garvey Jackson
Motion Passed
- b. Action Item 25-25 Proposal Selection for Jasper County Workforce Center Office Space**
Board staff asked for approval to contract with Southeast Texas Food Bank for Workforce Center office space in Jasper County.

Tabled until next meeting.

c. Action Item 25-26 Proposal Selection for Child Care Subrecipient

Board staff asked for approval to begin contract negotiations with Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas for operation and management of the Child Care Services system.

Motion made by Executive/Finance Committee

Seconded by Tyane Dietz

Ashley Courtney abstained due to conflict of interest

Motion Passed

d. Action Item 25-27 DWFS Contract Renewal

Board staff asked for authorization to begin negotiations for the 2025-2026 contract year with Dynamic Workforce Solutions-TX, LLC.

Tabled until additional information is gathered by Board staff per Board's request.

e. Action Item 25-28 Proposed Rebranding/Logo

Board staff asked for approval of new logo and rebranding of Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas.

Tabled until next meeting.

2. Discussion and Acceptance of Financial Reports

a. Financial Reports for May & June 2025

- **Statement of Financial Position**

- **Budget vs. Actual**

- **Grant Report**

Chief Financial Officer, Maribel Soto-Mendoza, provided financial updates for May and June. On a motion by Ben Mott, and a second by Gene Lee, the financials were accepted.

VII. Adjourn

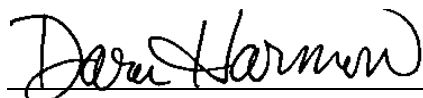
Ellen Mills adjourned the Board Meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Duly passed and approved on this 16 *day of* September *2025.*



Ellen Mills, Chair

Attest



Dara Harmon, Executive Coordinator






Board Minutes 8.11.25

Final Audit Report

2025-09-17

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