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Date: October 8, 2025

To: Child Care Advisory Group, Workforce Solutions East Texas Board

From:  Douglas G. Shryock, Director, Regional Workforce and Economic Development

Subject: October 17, 2025, Meeting

A meeting of the Child Care Advisory Group of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board has been scheduled for **Friday, October 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at the Tyler Workforce Center, 4100 Troup Highway, Tyler, Texas 75703 and Via Conference Call.** An agenda and supporting materials are attached.

Items for consideration include:

- Update on Child Care Services;
- Updates on topics/issues addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group during prior meetings;
- A. Property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit;
- B. Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5th star rating which would qualify 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds;
- Discussion of topics/issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months;
- A. Impact of the high cost of supplies for Child Care Centers;
- B. Briefing on upcoming provider training for each of the 14 counties to address questions regarding prospective payments; and
- Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics.

If any attendee has special requirements due to disabilities, reasonable arrangements will be made, upon request. Please contact the ETCOG office at (903) 218-6400. Telephone inquiries can be made at (800) 735-2989 (TDD) or (800) 735-2988 (Voice).

DGS/GA/kv

Enclosures

Workforce Solutions East Texas Board

Child Care Advisory Group
Friday, October 17, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.
Workforce Solutions East Texas – Tyler Center, Room 4
4100 Troup Highway
Tyler, Texas 75703

And Virtually Via Conference Call

To join the meeting by telephone please call the number below and enter the meeting ID.
If you do not have a participant ID, just stay on the line and you will be entered into the meeting without one.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/009527157>

Phone: +1 (650) 4191505 Meeting ID: 009527157#

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Chair Camille Brown

2. Consider Public Comments: Chair Camille Brown

Time Limit: 3 Minutes. Interested Parties have an opportunity to address the Board or Committee, which has no obligation to respond in any manner to comments or questions asked of them by the speaker. If multiple speakers wish to address the same topic, a spokesperson will be selected. Any response by a member of the Board is limited by Texas law to a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, or a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future WSET Board or Committee meeting.

3. Consider items from Child Care Advisory Group Members: Chair Camille Brown

This agenda item shall allow any member of the Child Care Advisory Group the opportunity to discuss minor, non-action items such as recognitions, attendance at relevant events, upcoming relevant events, etc. that are not listed on this agenda, and which require no action by the Group.

4. Consider and take appropriate action regarding approval of the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on July 8, 2025: Chair Camille Brown (Enclosure #1)

5. Consider and take appropriate action regarding update on Child Care Services: Rhonda McGrath

6. Consider and take appropriate action regarding updates on topics / issues addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group during prior meetings: Chair Camille Brown, MJ Wagner and Doug Shryock

A. Property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit

B. Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5th star rating which would quality 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds – MJ Wagner

7. Consider and take appropriate action regarding discussion of topics / issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months: Chair Camille Brown, Doug Shryock and Rhonda McGrath

A. Impact of the high cost of supplies for Child Care Centers

B. Briefing on upcoming provider training for each of the 14 counties to address questions regarding prospective payments

C. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics

8. Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda: Chair Camille Brown

9. Set Date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting: Chair Camille Brown

10. Adjournment

Minutes of Meeting

Workforce Solutions East Texas Board
Child Care Advisory Group
Tuesday, July 8, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.
Workforce Solutions East Texas – Tyler Center, Room 4
4100 Troup Highway
Tyler, Texas 75703

And Virtually Via Conference Call

To join the meeting by telephone, please call the number below and enter the meeting ID. If you do not have a participant ID, just stay on the line and you will be entered into the meeting without one.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/107122159>

Phone: +1 (650) 4191505

Meeting ID: 107122159#

1. Call to Order: Chair Camille Brown

Chair Camille Brown could not come to the meeting due to a conflict, and Claretta Allen took her place. She called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. and called on everyone there both in person and virtually to introduce themselves.

The following individuals were present:

Members

Claretta Allen
Caprice Boren
Yashica Conley
Shawwna Cooley
LaQuita Crayton
Charles Dheil
Jennifer Deupree
Valerie Hatten
Stephanie Leatch
Rhonda McGrath
Adam Martin
Brandee Overshown
Rita Portz
LJ Raffray
MJ Wagner

Staff

Doug Shryock
Gary Allen
Tiffany Combs
Kelly Horn
Dylan Savage
Kitty Vickers

Guests

Alicia Zavala, Champions for Children

2. Consider Public Comments: Chair Camille Brown

Time Limit: 3 Minutes. Interested Parties have an opportunity to address the Board or Committee, which has no obligation to respond in any manner to comments or questions asked of them by the

speaker. If multiple speakers wish to address the same topic, a spokesperson will be selected. Any response by a member of the Board is limited by Texas law to a statement of specific factual information, a recitation of existing policy, or a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future WSET Board or Committee meeting.

There were no Public Comments.

3. Consider items from Child Care Advisory Group Members: Chair Camille Brown

This agenda item shall allow any member of the Child Care Advisory Group the opportunity to discuss minor, non-action items such as recognitions, attendance at relevant events, upcoming relevant events, etc. that are not listed on this agenda, and which require no action by the Group.

There were no items from the Child Care Advisory Group Members.

4. Consider and take appropriate action regarding approval of the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on April 8, 2025: Chair Camille Brown (Enclosure #1

Yashica Conley moved to approve the minutes of the Child Care Advisory Group meeting on April 8, 2025. The motion was seconded by LaQuita Crayton and passed with no opposition.

5. Consider and take appropriate action regarding update on Child Care Services: Rhonda McGrath

Rhonda McGrath gave an update on Child Care Services. They are not seeing any cuts with the Child Care Development Block Grant, which is the primary Federal Government funding source for Child Care Services in Texas. The Texas Workforce Commissioners (TWC) approved the 2026 East Texas childcare budget for \$34 million in direct care. Their target for children served this year was 5,700. As of this morning they had 6,030 children in care. There are two ladies in the position of Business Industry Support Analysis who started working with the childcare staff on July 1, 2025. They do not tell the childcare centers how to run their business but give them ideas and support. Through all their transactions there is job coaching with different classes. Thanks to the ladies and childcare staff, childcare no longer has capacity issues. The childcare staff will be getting a flyer out to all their providers on information about the free service and training.

6. Consider and take appropriate action regarding discussion of topics/issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months: Chair Camille Brown and Doug Shryock

A. Property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit

Gary Allen briefly discussed property tax relief to centers needs for modification so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit. It is usually the larger cities which are eligible for the tax. Licensed homes qualify for tax relief, but registered homes do not qualify. It could reduce their property taxes to a minimum of 50% if passed before the city and county. The centers/owners need to analyze what the potential impact would be for childcare if a county entity is considering this benefit.

B. Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5th star rating which would quality 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds

Gary Allen discussed the Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5th star rating which would

qualify 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds. September 1, 2026, is when the vouchers can be turned in. It is for high school students, middle school students and all the way down to pre-K (childcare) students. The State Comptroller's Office is responsible for the implementation of this legislation. It is the responsibility of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to put the mechanisms in place for individuals to apply for vouchers, families, and schools to be participants in the system. MJ Wagner stated if a program is a three or four star, in partnership with a school and meets other requirements, they qualify for the vouchers according to the bill. She added she has a meeting in Austin next week and is planning on bringing up the possibility of Texas Rising Star implementing a fifth star rating.

C. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics/issues

Gary Allen stated he would research any topics/issues which may come up. No one brought up any preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics/issues at this time.

7. Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda: Chair Camille Brown

Claretta Allen stated she will leave it up to staff for identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda as they develop.

8. Set Date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting: Chair Camille Brown

Claretta Allen stated she will leave it up to staff to work with Chair Camille Brown to set a date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.