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Date: June 27, 2025

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

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

Subject: July 8, 2025, Meeting

A meeting of the Child Care Advisory Group of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board has been scheduled for **Tuesday, July 8, 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;
- Discussion of topics/issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months:
  - 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 5<sup>th</sup> star rating which would qualify 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds; and
  - C. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics/issues.

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  
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#

### **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 April 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 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
  - B. Education Savings Account (Vouchers) legislation impacting the Child Care business and possibilities for CCS (Rising Star) to implement a 5<sup>th</sup> star rating which would quality 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds
  - C. Preliminary discussion of other Child Care topics / issues

7. Identification of items to be included on the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda: Chair Camille Brown
8. Set Date for the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting: Chair Camille Brown
9. Adjournment

## Minutes of Meeting

Workforce Solutions East Texas Board  
Child Care Advisory Group  
Tuesday, April 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/125812294>

Phone: +12679304000

Meeting ID: 125812294#

#### 1. Call to Order: Chair Camille Brown

Chair Camille Brown called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

The following individuals were present:

##### Members

Chair Camille Brown  
Claretta Allen  
Anita Brinkley  
Cheryl Carter  
Brandi Clark  
Yashica Conley  
Shawwna Cooley  
LaQuita Crayton  
Charles Dheil  
Tony Doria  
Jennifer Deupree  
Stephanie Fletcher  
Rhonda McGrath  
Adam Martin  
Rita Portz  
LJ Raffray  
MJ Wagner

##### Staff

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

##### Guests

#### 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 and take appropriate action on Child Care Advisory Group introductions and provide a brief description of the members' duties and organizations: Chair Camille Brown and Doug Shryock**

Doug Shryock welcomed everyone at the meeting and used a Child Care Advisory Group roster list for roll call. He asked everyone who attended both in person and virtually to give an introduction and a brief description of their duties and organizations.

**4. \*Consider and take appropriate action regarding an overview of the role of the Child Care Advisory Group: Chair Camille Brown and Doug Shryock (Enclosure #1)**

Doug Shryock reviewed an overview of the role of the Child Care Advisory group enclosed in the Agenda Packet.

House Bill (HB) 619, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2021), added §302.0062 to the Texas Labor Code, requiring the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to prepare a child care workforce strategic plan for improving the quality of the infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age child care workforce in Texas. Based on the HB 619 requirements, TWC's three-member Commission approved the Child Care Workforce Strategic Plan 2023–2025 (Plan), which includes specific goals, strategies, and action plans for implementation. Action Item 3.2.2 in the Plan requires Workforce Development Boards (Workforce Solutions East Texas Board) to establish local child care committees (Advisory Groups).

The Chairman of the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board (WSETB) appoints members of the Child Care Advisory Group. The Group will offer the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board information, observations and recommendations they can use in their policy deliberations.

Appointees are considered based upon suggestions from partners such as the Child Care Services contractor and Texas Rising Star.

Chair – Workforce Solutions East Texas Board Child Care Representative Camille Brown

Licensed child care centers participating in TWC's Child Care Services (CCS) program

Licensed or registered child care homes participating in CCS

Families currently or formerly served by CCS

Child Care Services contractor (BakerRipley)

Members of the WSETB Welfare-to-Work Committee, which has oversight for Child Care Services policies

Other Child Care Stakeholders such as Smith County Champions for Children

Child Care Regulation

Texas School Ready

Texas Rising Star

Workforce Solutions East Texas Board / East Texas Council of Governments Staff

The Workforce Solutions East Texas Board determines rules of governance for the Advisory Group -  
No Bylaws

1-year terms with no term limits  
Hybrid (In-person and virtual) meetings (Anticipated to be Quarterly)  
Advisory Group Agendas will be set by the Chair  
Board staff will provide administrative support for the Child Care Advisory Group

**5. \*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**

Chair Camille Brown provided a handout to review topics/issues to be addressed by the Child Care Advisory Group in the coming months.

- Subsidies - providers shy away from accepting CCS because rates not high enough
- Property tax relief to centers needs to be modified so centers/owners can receive the intended benefit
- Key issues: staffing shortages, burnout, retaining, advocating for adequate funding for state childcare assistance, many child care businesses are at risk of closing unless more funding is put into the system
- Goal: overcoming obstacles as we continue to deliver exceptional care for children and their families now and well into the future. And that we as providers can help ensure early childhood education remains a "pillar of our communities"
- Education Savings Account Bills will impact the child care business (Vouchers) CCS (Rising Star) could implement a 5<sup>th</sup> star that would quality 4-star centers to qualify to accept voucher funds
- These issues are state problems not federal problems and can be fixed

The members encouraged more child care homes to participate in child care services (CCS) and not just the centers. They would also like to see more overnight centers opened.

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

Identification of items to be included in the next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting Agenda:

- Continue with issues on this agenda to help advise in the interest of child care.

**7. Set Date for next Child Care Advisory Group Meeting: Chair Camille Brown**

Chair Camille Brown requested setting the date for the next Child Care Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, starting at 1:30 PM at the Tyler Workforce Center.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.