



Workforce Development Board (WDB)

# MEETING

*April 9, 2025*



TO: The Honorable Judge Tim O'Hare  
The Honorable Mattie Parker  
The Honorable Jim Ross  
Tyrone Taylor, WDB Chair  
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County  
Board of Directors and Interested Parties

FROM: Robert Sturns

DATE: April 2, 2025

SUBJECT: **April 9, 2025 WDB Board Meeting**

The Workforce Development Board (WDB) will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Lena Pope Amon Carter Center, 3200 Sanguinet St., Fort Worth, TX 76107.** Networking will begin at **8:45 a.m.**

The agenda and preparation materials are attached for your review.

Please contact me at (817) 413-4000 if you have questions or if I can be of assistance.

Enclosures

cc: Gyna Bivens  
Chandler Merritt  
Dr. Barbara Odom-Wesley  
Rick Barnes



# Mission & Vision Statement

## **Our Mission**

The mission of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) is to ensure the successful delivery of innovative workforce solutions and create economic, educational and developmental opportunities that fully engage all employers and career seekers.

## **Our Vision:**

A well-trained, productive, equitable and fully employed workforce that supports the needs of local employers, promotes regional prosperity and improves quality of life.

# Workforce Governing Board & Workforce Development Board Member Directory

## WORKFORCE GOVERNING BOARD



Judge Tim O'Hare  
WGB Chair  
Tarrant County Judge

Member since 2023



Mayor Mattie Parker  
Mayor of Fort Worth

Member since 2021



Mayor Jim Ross  
Mayor of Arlington

Member since 2021

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OFFICERS



Tyrone Taylor  
Advisor  
Six Flags Over Texas

Board Chair  
Member since 2013



Rosa Navejar  
President  
The Rios Group, Inc.

Board Vice-Chair  
Member since 2014



2nd Board Vice-Chair

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Kimberly Baker-Jones  
UAW Local 276  
Joint Training Representative

Member since 2022



Lillie Biggins  
Board Member  
YMCA of Metropolitan  
Fort Worth

Member since 2001



Dr. Marcelo Cavazos  
Education Consultant

Member since 2013



Mike Coffey  
President  
Imperative Information Group

Member since 2023



Felicia Davis  
Owner  
Ready, Set, Jump Learning  
Center, LLC

Member since 2023



Leo Del Calvo  
President  
FSI Apparel, Inc.

Member since 2024



Mike Doyle  
CEO  
Cornerstone Assistance Network

Member since 2003



Mary Farris  
AES Program Manager  
Region 03  
Health and Human Services  
Commission

Member since 2021



Mike Gerro  
Market President Arlington /  
Mansfield Corporate Banking  
Frost Bank

Member since 2017

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Joan Grigsby  
Educational Consultant for Adult  
Services Division  
Tarrant Literacy Coalition

Member since 2015



Jon Gustafson  
Workforce Partnerships &  
Incentives  
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Member since 2012



Jana Harris  
President and CEO  
American Carton Company

Member since 2023



Jessica Heer  
Executive Vice President  
Fort Worth Economic  
Development Partnership

Member since 2025



Dr. Marie Holliday, DMD  
Owner  
Sundance Square Dentist

Member since 2018



Andrew Johnsen  
Columbia Strategic  
Consulting Group, LLC  
Partner/CEO

Member since 2022



Debra Jones  
Business Relations Coordinator  
Texas Workforce Solutions –  
Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Member since 2014



Antoinette Karriem  
Live! by Loews Arlington TX  
Director of Human Resources

Member since 2022



Jennifer Limas  
President and CEO  
Girls Inc. of Tarrant County

Member since 2013



Dr Daniel Lufkin  
Tarrant County College  
South Campus

Member since 2023



Jerletha McDonald  
Founder/CEO  
Arlington DFW Child Care  
Providers Association (ADFN)

Member since 2021



Jeff Postell  
President  
Post L Group, LLC

Member since 2021



Dr. Di Ann Sanchez, SPHR  
President  
DAS HR Consulting, LLC

Member since 2015



Leslie Scott  
Director, HR – North America  
Operations  
Mother Parker's Tea & Coffee

Member since 2004



Robert Teran  
Tarrant County Central Labor  
Council AFL-CIO

Member since 2021



Gracie Vega  
Director of Human Resources  
Gaylord Texan Resort and  
Convention Center

Member since 2006



Raymond L. Todd  
Assistant Integrated Services  
Area Manager - Region 2  
Texas Workforce Commission

Member since 2019



Estrus Tucker  
Como Alumni and Community  
Club Inc (CACI)

Member since 2005



## ACRONYMS

ABE	Adult Basic Education	ETA	Employment & Training Administration
ACF	Administration for Children and Families	ETPS	Eligible Training Provider System
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	ETR	Event Tracker Report
AEL	Adult Education & Literacy	FA	Fiscal Agent
APEX	Achieving Performance Excellence	FBO	Faith-Based Organization
ASE	Adult Secondary Education	FCTC	Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County
AVA	Adult Vocational Academy	FLSSA	Fair Labor Standards Act
BCY	Board Contract Year	FY	Fiscal Year
CC&EL	Child Care & Early Learning	GED	General Education Development or General Equivalency Diploma
CAE	Centralized Assessor Entity	HB-5	House Bill 5
CBO	Community Based Organization	HDJT	High Demand Job Training
CC	Child Care	HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
CC4H	College Credit for Heroes	HRWY	Hiring Red, White & You!
CCA	Child Care Associates	HSE	High School Equivalency
CCAA	Child Care Automated Attendance	HVRP	Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program
CCDBG	Child Care Development Block Grant	IAWG	Inter-Agency Workforce Group
CCDF	Child Care Development Fund	IEP	Individual Employment Plan
CCF	Child Care Formula	ISD	Independent School District
CCM	Child Care Match	ISY	In School Youth
CCMS	Child Care Management Services	IT	Information Technology
CCN	Child Care Network	ITA	Individual Training Account
CCP	Child Care Protective Services	KC	KinderConnect
CCQ	Child Care Quality	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
CCR	Child Care Regulation	KT	KinderTrack
CCS	Child Care Service	LEP	Limited English Proficiency
CDER	Cash Draw & Reporting System (TWC)	LMI	Labor Market Information
CEO	Chief Elected Officer / Chief Elected Official	LVER	Local Veteran Employment Representative
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	LWDB	Local Workforce Development Board
CGC	Cybersecurity Governance Committee	MHMR	My Health My Resources
CHIP	Children's Healthcare Insurance Program	MIS	Management Information System
COG	Council of Governments	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
CoSA	Coalition of Statewide Organizations	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CQF	Child Care Quality Four	MPR	Monthly Performance Report
CRT	Classroom Training	MRS	Market Rate Survey
CTC	Continuing the Climb	MSG	Measurable Skills Gain
CTE	Career and Technical Education	NAB	National Alliance of Business
DFPS	Department of Family & Protective Services	NAC	National Accreditation Commission
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	NACO	National Association of Counties
DOE	Department of Education	NAJST	National Association of Job Search Training
DOL	Department of Labor	NARC	National Association of Regional Councils
DOLETA	Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration	NAWB	National Association of Workforce Boards
	Department of Transportation	NAWDP	National Association of Workforce Development Professionals
DOT	Department of Transportation	NCP	Non Custodial Program
DVOP	Disabled Veteran Outreach Program	NCTCOG	North Central Texas Council of Governments
DW	Dislocated Worker	NCT EDD	North Central Texas Economic Development District
E&T	Education & Training	NEG	National Emergency Grant
EA	Emergency Assistance	OCT	Occupational Classroom Training
ECI	Early Childhood Intervention	OJT	On-the-Job Training
EDC	Economic Development Corporation	O*NET	Occupational Information Network
EEAP	Early Education Apprenticeship Program	OSY	Out of School Youth
ELA	Early Learning Alliance	PA	Public Assistance
ELD	Entry Level Designation	PIO	Public Information Officer
EO	Equal Opportunity	PSOC	Parent Share of Cost
EPS	Employment and Planning Session	PY	Program Year
ES	Employment Services		
ESL	English as a Second Language		
ESP	Employment Services Program		
ET	Employment and Training		

QRIS	Quality Rating and Improved System	VETS	Veterans Employment & Training Services (US Department of Labor)
RESEA	Reemployment Services & Eligibility Assessment	VIP	Veteran and Industry Partnership
RFI	Request for Information	VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
RFP	Request for Proposal	VRS	Vocational Rehabilitation Services
RFQ	Request for Quotes	VWIP	Veterans' Workforce Investment Program
RR	Rapid Response	WARN	Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification
RWLC	Regional Workforce Leadership Council	WD	Workforce Development
SAGE	System for Assessment & Group Evaluation	WD Letter	Workforce Development Letter - policy guidance issuances from the State
SBA	Small Business Administration	WDA	Workforce Development Area
SCANS	Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills	WDB	Workforce Development Board
SDA	Service Delivery Area	WDC	Workforce Development Council (U.S. Conference of Mayors)
SDF	Skills Development Fund	W/E	Work Experience (Internship)
SEAL	Summer Earn and Learn	WGB	Workforce Governing Board
SNAP E&T	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training	WIA	Workforce Investment Area
SOICC	State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee	WIB	Workforce Investment Board
SSF	Self Sufficiency Fund	WIG	Work Incentive Grant
STC	School to Careers	WIN	Workforce Innovation Network
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Math	WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
STSEI	State of Texas Soldier Employment Initiative	WIT	WorkInTexas
STW	School to Work	WOA	Workforce Orientation for Applicants
TA	Technical Assistance	WOTC	Work Opportunity Tax Credit
TAA	Trade Adjustment Assistance	WSTC	Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County
TABE	Test of Adult Basic Education	WTW	Welfare to Work
TAG PAC	Technical Administrators Group and Program Automation Coordinators	YA	Young Adult
TANF (Choices)	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families		
TARC	Texas Association of Regional Councils		
TAWB	Texas Association of Workforce Boards		
TCAELC	Tarrant County Adult Education and Literacy Consortium		
TCC	Tarrant County College		
TCWEC	Texas Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness		
TEA	Texas Education Agency		
TECPDS	The Early Childhood Professional Development System		
TEDC	Texas Economic Development Council		
TEGL	Training & Employment Guidance Letter		
TJ	Transitional Jobs		
TLWP	Texas Local Workforce Partnership		
TRA	Timely and Reasonable Attempt		
TRC	Texas Rehabilitation Commission		
TRACER	Texas Rapid Access Career Economic Resources (Texas LMI System)		
TRS	Texas Rising Star		
TSR	Texas School Ready		
TVC	Texas Veteran Commission		
TVLP	Texas Veterans Leadership Program		
TWC	Texas Workforce Commission		
TWIC	Texas Workforce Investment Council		
TWIST	The Workforce Information System of Texas		
TWS	Texas Workforce Solutions		
TXC3	Texas Child Care Connection (TWC Child Care Case Management System)		
UC	Unemployment Compensation		
UCP	United Cerebral Palsy		
UI	Unemployment Insurance		
USCM	U.S. Conference of Mayors		
USDOL	United States Department of Labor		
VA	Veterans Administration		
VAC	Vocational Adjustment Counselor		

Revised: March 2025

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**Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting Agenda**  
**9:00 a.m. April 9, 2025**

**Lena Pope Amon Carter Center - 3200 Sanguinet St, Fort Worth, TX 76107**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>I.</b>	<b>Call to Order.....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
<b>9:02</b>	<b>II.</b>	<b>Public Comments.....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
<b>9:05</b>	<b>III.</b>	<b>Special Introductions and Recognition.....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce new WSTC Executive Director – Robert Sturns (p. 1)</li> <li>• Introduce new Workforce Development Board Member – Jessica Heer (p. 2)</li> <li>• Board, Staff and Partner Recognition</li> </ul>	
<b>9:10</b>	<b>IV.</b>	<b>Approval of Consent Agenda Items .....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Joint WDB/WGB Meeting (p. 4)</li> <li>• Accept Committee Reports: Workforce Improvement (p. 11)</li> <li>• Accept the Financial Report (p. 12)</li> <li>• Accept Report on Recent and Upcoming Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGA) (p. 14)</li> <li>• Accept the Performance Report &amp; Analysis (p. 21)</li> <li>• Accept the Layoff Report (p. 25)</li> </ul>	
		<p>All consent agenda items are considered to be routine by the Board and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board Member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence.</p>	
<b>9:12</b>	<b>V.</b>	<b>Executive Session</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Session Pursuant to Section 551.072. DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY. The Board may deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.</li> </ul> <p align="center"><b>- Arlington Workforce Center Lease Discussion</b></p>	
<b>9:20</b>	<b>VI.</b>	<b>Action Item.....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorize the Executive Director to award, negotiate and execute a lease for a facility to house the Arlington Workforce Center, in accordance with the direction provided by the WDB. (p. 26)</li> </ul>	
<b>9:22</b>	<b>VII.</b>	<b>Briefing Item</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WSTC System Overview.....</li> <li>• Board Roles and Responsibilities.....</li> </ul>	<b>Jill Navarrete</b> <b>Carvan Adkins</b>
<b>10:10</b>	<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Report from the Chair.....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAWB Update</li> </ul>	
<b>10:20</b>	<b>IX.</b>	<b>Executive Director’s Report.....</b>	<b>Robert Sturns</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAWB /WIN Quarter 1 Meeting (p. 27)</li> <li>• National Updates (p. 31)</li> <li>• Communications &amp; Events Report (p. 33)</li> </ul>	
<b>10:25</b>	<b>X.</b>	<b>Adjourn .....</b>	<b>Tyrone Taylor</b>



# ROBERT STURNS

## Executive Director, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Robert Sturns dedication to economic and workforce development and his commitment to the citizens of Tarrant County resulted in his selection in 2025 as the Executive Director for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC), the local Workforce Board.

Mr. Sturns is responsible for overseeing over \$135 million in employment, training and child care dollars to benefit businesses and citizens in Tarrant County. WSTC's primary goal is to respond to the needs of employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives. WSTC assists individuals in finding employment and connecting local talent with employers looking to hire NOW! He oversees five (5) Workforce Centers located throughout Tarrant County that provide residents with no-cost tools and resources that empower and enable them to obtain employment in the career path of their choosing.

Robert is a proven executive leader with over 30 years' experience in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Sturns has demonstrated excellence in consensus building, board governance, organizational strategy, collaboration, relationship management, and developing high performing teams. In his previous role as Economic Development Director for the City of Fort Worth, he had a successful track record of driving new capital investment within highly competitive environments resulting in over \$6.4 billion of new investment and 34,000 jobs announced.

Robert holds a Master of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University. In addition, he is an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School Leading Economic Growth Program and proud former officer in the United States Army Reserve.

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** April 9, 2025

- Action Item
- Briefing Item
- Committee Report

**Submitted by:** Robert Sturns, Executive Director

**Prepared by:** Lacey Douglas, Communications & Events Director

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**Action Requested:**

Introduction of New Workforce Development Board Member

**Discussion:**

At this month's Board Meeting we welcome a new Workforce Development Board Member.

**Jessica Heer, Executive Vice President – Fort Worth Economic Development Partnership:**

replaces Bruce Payne and is our Economic Development Representatives on the Board. Ms. Heer's nomination was certified by the Commission on March 4, 2025.

A short bio can be found behind this communication. We are excited to have her join our Workforce Development Board and look forward to working with her.

# Jessica Heer



Jessica Heer is the Executive Vice President of Economic Development at the Fort Worth Economic Development Partnership (Fort Worth EDP), overseeing business attraction strategy, marketing, and day-to-day operations of the organization.

Prior to joining the Fort Worth EDP, Jessica served as Senior Vice President of the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), where she was responsible for creating and accelerating the marketing and brand strategy for the DRC, affiliated brands, and its strategic priorities.

During her tenure at the DRC, Jessica led the creation and launch of several marketing campaigns, including the Say Yes to Dallas talent attraction campaign, Business Works Better Here corporate recruitment campaign and the Why Dallas campaign. Her organization's efforts led to many successful corporate recruitment projects, including AT&T, Jacobs, Kubota Tractor Corporation, and Toyota Motor North America.

Jessica earned a bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University and her master's degree from the University of North Texas. She and her husband, Michael, have two children.



**Workforce Governing and Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m. February 12, 2025**  
**Lena Pope Amon Carter Center – 3200 Sanguinet St., Fort Worth, 76107**  
**MINUTES**

**WGB Members Present:** Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare, Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, and Arlington Mayor Jim Ross

**WDB Members Present:** Lillie Biggins, Felicia Davis, Leo Del Calvo, Mike Doyle, Joan Grigsby, Jon Gustafson, Dr. Marie Holliday, Deb Jones, Jennifer Limas, Dr. Daniel Lufkin, Jerletha McDonald, Bruce Payne, Dr. Di Ann Sanchez, Leslie Scott, Tyrone Taylor, Robert Teran, Raymond Todd, Estrus Tucker, and Gracie Vega

**WDB Members Absent:** Kimberly Baker-Jones, Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, Mary Farris, Mike Coffey, Mike Gerro, Jana Harris, Andrew Johnsen, Antoinette Karriem, Rosa Navejar, and Jeff Postell

**Staff Present:** Nicole Allen, Becky Prater, Shauna Camp, Tiffany Clayton, Jack Cummings, Tracey Cummings, Kristi Davis, Lacey Douglas, Steven Gonzalez, Brenda Harrist, Valerie Kelton, Judy McDonald, Jauneen Maldonado, Jann Miles, Jill Navarrete, Michael Selinski, Tabitha Smith-Moore, James Stokes, and Mark Tristan

**Legal Counsel Present:** Carvan Adkins

**I. Call to Order**

Judge Tim O'Hare called the Workforce Governing Board (WGB) Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. There was a quorum of members present.

Tyrone Taylor, Board Chair, called the Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. There was a quorum of members present.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge**

Judge O'Hare and Tyrone Taylor led the assemblage in the pledges to the American and Texas flags.

**III. Invocation**

Estrus Tucker led the assemblage in the invocation.

**IV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **V. Consent Agenda Items**

Judge O'Hare remarked that some of the items were WDB Consent, some were WGB Consent and others Joint Consent items. Judge O'Hare stated they would be combined to make a single vote after we have a motion and second from each board.

**It was moved by Mayor Mattie Parker and seconded by Mayor Jim Ross to approve the WGB Consent Agenda Items.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Jon Gustafson and seconded by Leslie Scott to approve the WDB Consent Agenda Items.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**The motion to approve the WDB/WGB Board Consent Items carried unanimously.**

**Workforce Governing Board (WGB) Consent Items included the following:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2024 WGB/WDB Meeting
2. Accept the Workforce Governing Board Meeting Calendar
3. Accept the Workforce Development Board Update Report
4. Approve the Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) 2025-2028 Local Plan Strategies
5. Approve the Workforce Development Board Appointment

**Workforce Development Board (WDB) Consent Items included the following:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 WDB Meeting
2. Accept the Committee Reports: Workforce Improvement, Workforce Delivery, Workforce Investment
3. Approve the Board Child Care Program policy changes as recommended by the Workforce Delivery Systems Committee

**Workforce Development/Governing Board Consent Items included the following:**

1. Update the Boards on challenges with the MPR Report
2. Accept the Layoff Report
3. Accept the Financial Report
4. Accept the Report on Recent Solicitations for Grant Applications

## **VI. Executive Session**

Mr. Taylor advised the audience the members of the WGB and WDB as well as legal counsel would go into Executive Session in accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer.

Mr. Taylor asked all members of the audience and staff to leave the room and once finished they would be called back. Mr. Taylor called the Executive Session to order at 9:07 a.m. and ended at 9:17 a.m.

## VII. WDB/WGB Action Items

The following Action Items were presented to the WDB and WGB for vote:

1. Authorize hiring of the Executive Director

**Mr. Taylor asked the WDB Members for a motion to authorize the hiring of the Executive Director. It was moved by Estrus Tucker and seconded by Leslie Scott.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consent to the hiring of the new Executive Director

**Judge O'Hare asked the WGB Members for consent to the hiring of the Executive Director. It was moved by Mayor Jim Ross and seconded by Mayor Mattie Parker.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Approve Jill Navarrete as the Interim Executive Director

**Mr. Taylor asked the WDB Members for a motion to approve Jill Navarrete as the Interim Executive Director. It was moved by Deb Jones and seconded by Dr. Di Ann Sanchez.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Authorize the WDB Chair to negotiate and execute a consulting contract with Judy McDonald

**Mr. Taylor asked the WDB Members for a motion to negotiate and execute a consulting contract with Judy McDonald. It was moved by Jerletha McDonald and seconded by Lillie Biggins.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Authorize execution of a new bank signature card

**Mr. Taylor asked the WDB Members for a motion to authorize execution of a new bank signature card. It was moved by Dr. Di Ann Sanchez and seconded by Jennifer Limas.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

6. Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Revision #1 as recommended by the Workforce Investment Committee

Mr. Taylor recognized Jack Cummings, Senior Director of Contracts and Budget, to present to the Board the action to approve the Fiscal Year Budget Revision #1. Mr. Cummings stated the Board's fiscal year began on October 1, 2024 and since that time, additional funding had been received. The close-out of the prior fiscal year had also been completed and carry over projections had been included in the balances that remained at the end of the prior year. Mr. Cummings further explained the amendment captures additional funding and carryover.

Mr. Cummings directed Board members to the table summarizing funding changes on the first page of the communication for this item in the Board packet. This shows an increase totaling \$15,096,752 in new or additional funding and a net reduction of 2,003,341 in carryover funding. Taken together, these changes combine to increase FY 25 funding by \$13,093,341. It was noted that the additional funding included just under \$13 million for the child care program, of which \$6.7 million is dedicated to direct child services with the remainder being allocated to child care quality improvement activities. Other additional funding items include \$1.3 million for a Summer Earn & Learn project, and \$631,758 to expand re-employment services to recipients of unemployment insurance.

With regard to carryover funds, it was noted that a child care funding reduction that the Board received at the end of Fiscal Year 2024 caused us to close the fiscal year with a \$2.4 million deficit in the child care program. Following discussions with the state regarding the deficit, it was agreed that multiple factors that were beyond the Board's control led to this outcome. As a result, the state is allowing us to cover the deficit with FY 25 funding. It is this allowance that produced the negative carryover amount of \$2,428,697 for child care. Other changes in carryover funding include an increase totaling just over \$530,000 for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker customers, a \$125,624 increase in carryover for the TANF program, and a reduction of \$110,000 in youth carryover.

Mr. Cummings stated the amendment was reviewed by the Investment Committee who met on February 5, 2025 and voted to recommend approval of the amendment to the full Board. Mr. Cummings opened the floor for questions at the end of the discussion. No questions were submitted.

**Mr. Taylor commented a single vote would be made after a motion and second from both boards.**

**Mr. Taylor asked the WDB Members for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Revision #1. It was moved by Lillie Biggins and seconded by Mike Doyle.**

**Mr. Taylor asked the WGB Members for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Revision #1. It was moved by Mayor Mattie Parker and seconded by Mayor Jim Ross.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VIII. WGB Workforce Discussion**

Mr. Taylor invited each member of the Workforce Governing Board to share with the audience any topics, 2025 priorities, or good news of importance at this time.

Mayor Mattie Parker focused on issues pertinent to the Workforce Board. Mayor Parker and Judge O'Hare recently attended meetings during Tarrant County Days at the Capitol with State Legislators and the Governor's Office in Austin to discuss a variety of issues. Major bills being addressed were those pertaining to public education, water infrastructure and transportation for cities and counties across the State of Texas.

Mayor Parker commented that the Fort Worth Independent School District was on track after recent concerns. The district would be refocusing on the basics, and she cited reading proficiency numbers as an issue being addressed. School closures across the state are occurring due to a decrease in enrollment numbers and budget shortfalls. She further stated education should be a bi-partisan effort as it remained the most prominent issue for families as they choose their child's education path.

Teacher pay, classroom autonomy, quality early childhood education and elevating poor performing schools would also continue to be a high priority. Education issues affect the entire state and Mayor Parker stated she remained optimistic about solutions in large part due to the efforts of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County.

Mayor Parker advised Jay Chapa was hired as the new Fort Worth City Manager after seven years in the City Manager's Office. Mayor Parker also informed the Board of her intent to seek another term as Mayor. Additionally, several council seats are open during the upcoming May elections as several current council members had decided not to run again including Mayor Pro Tem Gyna Bivens.

Mayor Parker closed by commenting that the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County strive to create a high quality of life, and this included focusing on growing talent currently within the city and county utilizing the resources of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. Mayor Parker thanked Judy McDonald for her years of service and leadership.

Mayor Jim Ross gave an update on activities and events in Arlington. The Medal of Honor Museum will host an opening VIP Reception on March 22, 2025 and every living U.S. President is expected to be in attendance. The Grand Opening will be March 25, 2025 and include fireworks, drone shows, music and many other family friendly activities and will be free to the public.

Mayor Ross continued that eight new World, North American or American headquarters have moved to Arlington which has translated into thousands of good paying jobs. He stated the most notable additions included E-Space, a satellite manufacturing company located next to the Arlington National Airport and Acciona, a large international company locating in the area. One Rangers Way, a luxury multi-family apartment complex will open in the heart of the Entertainment District later this spring.

Mayor Ross concluded by updating the Board on the high-speed rail system being analyzed at the Regional Transportation Commission and a proposed stop in Arlington. The concept is well received by the residents of both Arlington and Fort Worth as well as across Tarrant County. Progress on the project will continue to be monitored as it will benefit businesses and employees across the area.

Judge Tim O'Hare opened his remarks by stating there were two new members on the Commissioners' Court. Roy Brooks and Gary Fitz are now retired, and the positions now held by Robert Miles and Matt Krause. He continued by stating his focus remains taxpayer dollars and the ability to provide more and better services to Tarrant County residents. These include property and hospital tax cuts over the past two years. The reductions have been enacted without laying off personnel while pay has been increased for law enforcement.

Judge O'Hare attended legislative meetings with Mayor Parker and stated that education and property tax relief were priorities of the current session. He had confidence that more money would go toward public education, and a school choice bill would be passed.

Judge O'Hare reiterated his efforts toward funding a mental health hospital in Tarrant County and the moral obligation to address the issue. Tarrant County is the largest county in the state without a mental health hospital. Additionally, the county has proposed funding that could be paid to private hospitals for beds in the local area instead of utilizing resources at jails that are not equipped to manage a mental health issue.

Judge O'Hare commented that work has continued to reduce the jail population without sacrificing public safety by collaborating with judges to move cases more efficiently. Judge O'Hare remarked that transportation, veterans' services, the court system, and the budget all remain a high priority for county government. He stated that addressing these entities is challenging but the Commissioners' Court works well together in the interest of county constituents. Judge O'Hare thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to address public interests.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Elected Officials for sharing their important updates. He remarked it is always welcome to hear about activities in the city and county.

## **IX. Special Introductions and Recognitions**

Mr. Taylor welcomed the staff of local, state, and national representatives that joined the meeting. He continued by recognizing the military veterans in attendance and acknowledged appreciation for their service.

Mr. Taylor continued by recognizing two outgoing members of the Board for their contributions to the organization. Second Vice-Chair, Bruce Payne was acknowledged for his expertise in economic development and service to the community. Mr. Payne served as an officer from October 1, 2023, until February 12, 2025 and was a member of the Board beginning in 2017. Mr. Taylor then recognized Buddy Puente for his service on the Board from 2005 – 2024. Mr. Puente served as a Private Sector Representative and was an advocate for the Board's mission. Their service was commemorated with an engraved token of appreciation.

Mr. Taylor introduced Judge O'Hare to recognize Board Member Years of Service. Board Members recognized for 5-9 years Mike Gerro, Dr. Marie Holliday, Bruce Payne, and Raymond Todd. Board Members honored for 10-19 years of service were Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, Joan Grigsby, Jon Gustafson, Deb Jones, Jennifer Limas, Rosa Navejar, Dr. Di Ann Sanchez, Tyrone Taylor, and Gracie Vega. Board Members Lillie Biggins, Mike Doyle, Leslie Scott, and Estrus Tucker were recognized for over 20 years of service to the Board.

Judge O'Hare then announced Board staff who had recently obtained service milestones including 5, 10, 15, and 20-year anniversaries. Steven Gonzalez, Business Services Director, Becky Prater, Information Security Support Specialist, Byron Nelson, Procurement Manager, Shauna Camp, Information Security Manager, and Nicole Allen, Child Care Director were recognized. Kristi Davis, IT and Facilities Director, celebrated 25 years of service and was presented with a special service pin celebrating this accomplishment.

## **X. Report from the WDB Chair and Executive Director**

Mr. Taylor gave a brief overview from the Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB). He directed the Board to review the collection of informative workforce-related articles and updates. He also included in his update the provided Partners Spotlight for information on the Board's current Workforce Center contractor, C2 Global Professional Services. He reminded the Board to please submit a meeting evaluation as it is helpful in planning future meetings.

Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. McDonald for the Executive Director's Report. Ms. McDonald opened by thanking staff and guests for the retirement party given in her honor. She thanked Judge O'Hare for the Resolution presented to her at a recent Commissioners' Court meeting.

Ms. McDonald also commented on the recent Tarrant County Days at the Capitol. Nicole Allen, Child Care Director, attended on behalf of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County as legislation being considered in Austin will have a service impact on workforce and child care.

She continued we are also watching movement on legislation in the House and Senate. Funds have been reduced for summer work experience and internships that give young people opportunities to work with private and public sectors to gain quality work experience. The goal would continue to look for ways to fund a track for young people and keep them interested in the work experience.

Ms. McDonald closed by thanking Mr. Taylor and those who worked on the search committee for the new Executive Director.

#### **XI. Adjourn WGB Meeting**

The WGB Quorum was lost at 9:53 a.m.

#### **XII. Workforce Awards and Recognitions**

The Annual Awards presentation with video announced and highlighted award winners and partners. The award recipients were invited to share a few remarks following their video. Awards presented included the following:

- Large Employer of the Year – Awarded to **MP Materials, Steven Young**
- Small Employer of the Year – Awarded to **Post L Group, Jeff Postell**
- Hireability Employer of the Year – Awarded to **Gaylord Texas Resort and Hotel, Nick Almendarez and Gracie Vega**
- AEL Scholars of the Year – Awarded to **Thi Dieu Tho Nguyen and Armando Ramirez**
- Cathers Award – Awarded to **Gloria Harrison, Workforce Solutions**
- Vandergriff Award – Awarded to **Judy McDonald, Executive Director/Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County**

#### **XIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the WDB Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** April 9, 2025

Action Item                      Submitted by: Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director  
 Briefing Item  
 Committee Report              Prepared by: Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director

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**Action Requested:**

Accept the Workforce Improvement Committee Report

**Committee Goals:**

**Goal #4**

Improve the quality of the existing, potential, and future workforce in Tarrant County through strategic partnerships.

**Goal #5**

Develop and offer responsive Business Services to help Tarrant County businesses, especially smaller businesses, meet their human resource needs and improve the quality of the workforce available to them.

**Discussion:**

The Workforce Improvement Committee met at Live! by Loews on March 25, 2025. Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director asked the committee to approve the minutes from the January 2025 Workforce Improvement Committee meeting. Antoinette Karriem, Complex Director of Human Resources for Loews Arlington Hotel welcomed the committee to the property.

Julie Favre-Dylla, Executive Director of the Hotel Association of Tarrant County provided an update on the current state of the hospitality industry in Tarrant County, highlighting several key issues:

- The industry is facing challenges, including labor shortages and difficulties attracting and retaining talent.
- Flexible child care plays a pivotal role in supporting employees within the Hospitality industry, particularly in roles requiring non-traditional hours.

Through a joint initiative, the Hospitality HR Council, formed by Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County and the Hotel Association of Tarrant County, focuses on workforce development. Specifically, it aims to enhance the hospitality industry's talent pipeline by promoting career opportunities and educational pathways to students from K-12 through higher education institutions within Tarrant County.

Renee Parker highlighted the newly awarded Texas Workforce Commission Teacher Externship grant, designed to benefit both employers and teachers by connecting classroom learning with local industry. This program offers a unique opportunity to improve teachers' ability to prepare students for the workforce, connect classroom learning with real-world workplace realities, enhance educators' understanding of industry needs, and build a valuable network beyond the school environment.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** April 9, 2025

**Action Item**

**Submitted by:** Mark Tristan, Senior Director of Finance

**Briefing Item**

**Committee Report.**

**Prepared by:** Mark Tristan, Senior Director of Finance

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**Action Requested:**

Accept the Financial Report

**Discussion:**

The Board is requested to accept the financial report for February 2025. For the first five months of the fiscal year which began October 1, 2024, the report shows 38.80% of the budget expended. Expenditures for the first five months should track at approximately 41.67%, which suggests that most system-wide expenditures for personnel and operations are progressing at acceptable levels.

Budget figures have been updated to include the nearly \$13.1M increase in funds approved via FY25 Budget Revision #1, which the Board approved on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Facilities expenditures include cash payments for March lease obligations that were actually paid in February, thus the higher expenditure rate.

Actual training expenditures through February 28<sup>th</sup> are reflecting an expenditure rate of 12.47% of the Individual Training Accounts (ITA) budget. However, over \$654K in additional training costs have also been obligated, therefore, 33% of the budget has already been committed for training during FY25.

Most Direct Client activities, such as Work Experience and Support Services are spending at appropriate levels to begin the year. As the year progresses, the workforce center operator will monitor and analyze all client activities to ensure that those in higher demand are appropriately funded. The contractor has the flexibility to move budgeted funds from one client activity to another as needed to support customer demand.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Reflection of expenditures for the Tarrant County Workforce Development Area for October 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025.

**Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County  
Fiscal Year 2025  
For the Fifth Month Ending February 28, 2025**

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>YTD EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>BOARD:</b>			
Personnel	7,289,598	2,912,911	39.96%
Operations (System-Wide)	2,877,384	1,185,813	41.21%
<b>WORKFORCE CENTER OPERATOR:</b>			
Personnel	9,209,574	3,057,202	33.20%
Operations	1,146,971	434,388	37.87%
<b>FACILITIES</b>	2,371,455	1,101,468	46.45%
<b>CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>	27,619,743	6,755,125	24.46%
<b>DIRECT CHILD CARE</b>	77,865,001	34,977,661	44.92%
<b>INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS (ITA):</b>	3,122,616	389,484	12.47%
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE</b>	1,770,776	627,442	35.43%
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	1,995,114	1,038,256	52.04%
	<u>\$ 135,268,233</u>	<u>\$ 52,479,751</u>	<u>38.80%</u>

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** April 9, 2025

- Action Item**
- Briefing Item**
- Committee Report**

**Submitted by:** Jann Miles, Planning Director

**Prepared by:** Kay L. Gollihugh,  
Capacity Bldg. & Training Mgr.

**Action Requested:**

Accept Report on Recent and Upcoming Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGA).

**Discussion:**

The following grants have been submitted and those we anticipate for this spring.

Spring Submissions:

<b>Fatherhood FIRE</b> (Family Focused, Interconnected, Resilient, Essential)	<b>Status :</b> Anticipated Release May 2025
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**Grantor:** US Health and Human Services Agency

**Amount:** \$1,250,000 Max ceiling

**Purpose:** To provide a broad array of services to promote or sustain healthy marriage and relationships, strengthen positive father-child engagement, and improve employment and economic stability opportunities for adult fathers (ages 18 and older).

**Board Lead:** Mervil Johnson

**Contract Dates:** October 2025 to September 2030

**Submission Date:** Estimated July 2025

<b>Texas Talent Connection Grant</b>	<b>Status:</b> Opens April 1, 2025
--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

**Amount:** \$350,000

**Purpose:** Year 2 of Neighborhood Initiative Strategy

**Board Lead:** Benda Harrist

**Contract Dates:** Sept 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

**Submission Date:** Deadline April 30, 2025

As this is year 2 submission for a grant we received last year, we are very hopeful of continued funding as we have met all our performance targets for last year. This funding continues to support staffing at two neighborhood initiative sites located in southeast and northside communities in Fort Worth. We have seen a continued rise in the numbers of both employers and job seekers participating in our job fairs held in the neighborhood. This new funding request will continue support for workforce staffing and services at our partner site locations.

**Teacher Externship-WIOA Statewide****Status: Awarded**

Currently Recruiting Employers

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) is part of a three-board area endeavor including Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas and Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas. The purpose of this grant is to provide seventy-five CTE teachers in secondary education with summer externships in industry to increase/update their knowledge and connect them to local employers. We are thrilled to announce we have already received well over 75 educator applications and have a waitlist. The teachers shared the top industries they would like to be paired with and it includes a wide range of top industries in Tarrant County.

WSTC is currently seeking employers to be part of this grant across all industry sectors. The employer will host the educator for 20 hours per week between June 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Teacher Externship Host Site flyer is attached to this report.

**Amount:** \$109,991**Board lead:** Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director**Healthcare Internship fund-WIOA Statewide****Status: In progress.**

Annoucement early April

**Amount:** \$100,000.**Purpose:** To provide twenty internships in the Health Care Industry.**Board Lead:** Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director**Original Application Submission:** 10/28/24**Summer Youth Subsidized Employment Initiative****Status: Approved**

Currently Recruiting Employers

**Amount:** \$540,303.20 (10% of our 2025 TANF contract)

**Purpose:** To provide a maximum of one hundred young adults ages 16-24 structured job preparation, career and career pathway awareness courses leading to subsidized employment activities between the dates of May 1, 2025 and Septepmber 1, 2025. Staff are currently taking referrals through the first week of June. The first cohort of young adults will start on May 14, 2025 as their first day at the worksite.

We are still looking for employer sites for this project. The project covers the wages of the participant at \$14.00 an hour. Employers provide the hands-on expereince and training at their location for approximately 8 to 12 weeks. Both our Summer Young Adult and General Young Adult Outreach Flyers are attached to this report. If your interested in being one of our employer sites, please contact:

Jason Scanlan at [jason.scanlan@workforcesolutions.net](mailto:jason.scanlan@workforcesolutions.net) orEfren Cigarroa at [efren.cigarroa@workforcesolutions.net](mailto:efren.cigarroa@workforcesolutions.net)**Board Lead:** Tabitha Smith-Moore**Original Application Date:** 10/28/24**Fiscal Impact:** These funds will be part of the Board's funding if awarded.

# HOST A PAID TEACHER EXTERN AT YOUR BUSINESS



## Benefits

- Each teacher can impact more than 100 students
- Connect classroom learning with workplace realities
- Enhance educators' understanding of industry needs
- Improve their ability to prepare students for the workforce
- Build a network beyond the school environment
- Provide a support system, new ideas, and a sense of belonging to a broader community

Host for 20 hours between  
June 9<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>

## TEACHER EXTERNS FUNDED BY:

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas  
Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas  
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

## MANAGED BY:

North Central Texas Interlink, Inc.

**WORKFORCESOLUTIONS**  
**GREATER DALLAS**

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**WORKFORCESOLUTIONS**  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**WORKFORCESOLUTIONS**  
**FOR TARRANT COUNTY**

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**FREE  
TO  
HOST!**

More Information &  
share your interest:



100% of this project is funded with federal funds. Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For the hearing impaired, call TDD 1-800-735-2989 or VOICE 1-800-735-2988.

# SUMMER YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

**GET YOUR SUMMER STARTED!!  
YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR:**

- **UP TO 8 WEEKS OF PAID INTERNSHIP (SUMMER EMPLOYMENT)**
- **JOB READINESS TRAINING**
- **CAREER EXPLORATION**
- **SERVICES TO ENSURE SUCCESS**

**SERVICES PROVIDED AT NO COST TO QUALIFIED  
TARRANT COUNTY YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN  
THE AGES OF 16 AND 24.**

**CONNECT WITH US TODAY AND LET'S  
CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY, THE SUMMER  
YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM BEGINS  
MAY 1, 2025 AND ENDS  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.**



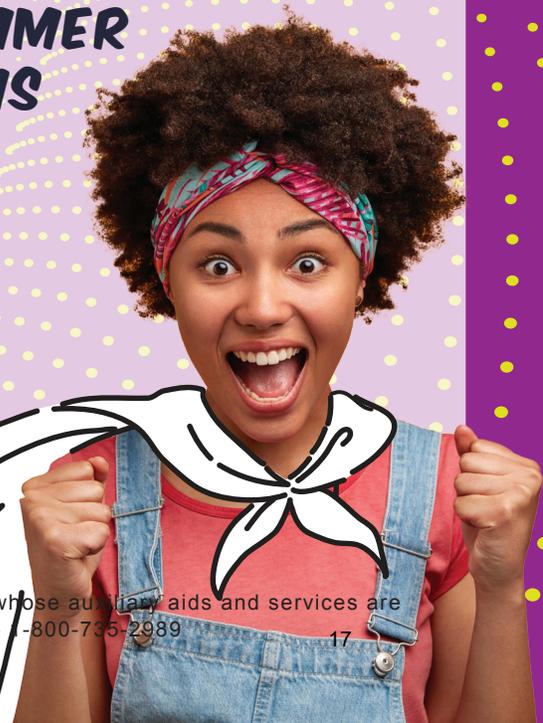
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**We're on Social Media**



Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program whose auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY – 1-800-735-2989



# PROGRAMA DE VERANO PARA ADULTOS JOVENES

**¡¡EMPIEZA TU VERANO!!  
USTED PUEDE SER ELEGIBLE PARA:**

- **HASTA 8 SEMANAS DE PRÁCTICAS REMUNERADAS (EMPLEO DE VERANO)**
- **CAPACITACIÓN EN PREPARACIÓN PARA EL TRABAJO**
- **EXPLORACIÓN DE CARRERA**
- **SERVICIOS PARA GARANTIZAR EL ÉXITO**

**SERVICIOS PROPORCIONADOS SIN COSTO A ADULTOS JÓVENES CALIFICADOS DEL CONDADO DE TARRANT ENTRE LAS EDADES DE 16 Y 24 AÑOS.**

**CONÉCTATE CON NOSOTROS HOY Y VERIFIQUEMOS TU ELEGIBILIDAD, COMIENZA EL PROGRAMA DE VERANO PARA JÓVENES ADULTOS 1 DE MAYO DE 2025 Y FINALIZA 1 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2025.**

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS  
FOR TARRANT COUNTY

Rise Up  
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR  
TARRANT COUNTY  
YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

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# EMPOWER



# EDUCATE

# EMPLOY



  
**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**  
FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

**Rise Up**  
Young Adult Program

If you're a Tarrant County resident ages 16-24, let us help you turn your **Talents** and **Passions** into a **Career Path**. We can help you finish your education, get a great job, assist with child care, transportation, and more!

## EMPOWER

- Save Money
- Leadership Development
- Mentoring
- Services to Ensure Success

## EDUCATE

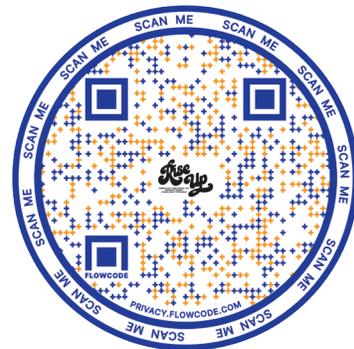
- Earn your High School Diploma / GED
- Qualify for Scholarships
- Skills Training / Earn a credential
- Prepare for Employment

## EMPLOY

- Land a Paid Internship
- Job Development
- Start Your Own Business, Learn about Entrepreneurship
- Secure a Job



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GET  
STARTED NOW

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

April 9, 2025

- Action Item**                      **Submitted by:** Doug Arnold, Quality & Monitoring Director
- Briefing Item**
- Committee Report.**    **Prepared by:** Doug Arnold, Quality & Monitoring Director

**Action Requested:**

Accept the Performance Report & Analysis Report

**Discussion:**

Our board area is meeting or exceeding 20 of the 22 reported contracted performance measures being reported on the August 2024 Year End Monthly Performance Report (MPR).

There were 16,340 children on the waiting list and 8,601 children in care for August 2024 Year End MPR.

There are no Tarrant County Facts to be reported as it is not being reported from the Texas Workforce Commission.

		Source
Not Reported	<b>Participant Served</b> (*C&T) July 1, 2023 thru June 2024.	August 2024 Year End MPR
18,284	# of Claimants exhausting UI with a 1st pay October 2022 thru June 2023.	August 2024 Year End MPR
3,744	<b>Claimants</b> Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Exit Period July 2022 thru August 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
4,759	<b>Participants</b> (C&T) Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Exit (Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
3,257	<b>RISK</b> Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
1,587	<b>WIOA</b> Adult/DW Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
221	<b>Justice Involved</b> Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Post Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
387	<b>TANF and SNAP</b> Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Post (Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR
474	<b>ES Veterans</b> Employed/Enrolled Qtr. 2 Post Exit (Post Exit Period July 2022 thru June 2023)	August 2024 Year End MPR

\*(C&T) Career and Training Services

Note: Unlike previously reported serve totals under the new methodology fewer service types are included. As a result, totals will be less than prior years.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

# BOARD SUMMARY REPORT - CONTRACTED MEASURES

BOARD NAME: TARRANT COUNTY

BOARD CONTRACT YEAR 2024 YEAR END REPORT

Status Summary		With Positive Performance (+P):	Meeting Performance (MP):	With Negative Performance (-P):	% +P & MP											
Contracted Measures		8	12	2	90.91%											
Source	Measure	Status	% Current Target	Current Target	EOY Target	Current Perf.	Prior Year End	2 Years Ago YE	YTD Num	YTD Den	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	From	To

## WIOA Outcome Measures

DOL-C 1	Employed Q2 Post Exit – Adult (DOL)	MP	103.68%	76.10%	76.10%	78.90%	85.80%	82.00%	615 780		79.10%	80.80%	77.90%	77.80%	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Employed Q4 Post Exit – Adult (DOL)	MP	102.20%	68.20%	68.20%	69.70%	70.90%	67.20%	567 813		67.80%	71.70%	68.90%	70.10%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Median Earnings Q2 Post Exit – Adult (DOL)	MP	104.50%	\$6,825.00	\$6,825.00	\$7,131.79	\$8,476.88	\$6,868.16	n/a 774		\$6,806.10	\$7,910.21	\$6,240.51	\$7,802.38	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Credential Rate – Adult (DOL)	+P	110.06%	65.60%	65.60%	72.20%	58.60%	76.20%	187 259		78.40%	65.60%	70.70%	76.00%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Measurable Skills Gains - Adult (DOL)	+P	127.51%	67.60%	67.60%	86.20%	88.90%	66.20%	212 246		----	----	----	----	7/23	6/24
DOL-C 1	Employed Q2 Post Exit – DW (DOL)	MP	97.22%	82.70%	82.70%	80.40%	90.00%	91.20%	226 281		80.60%	87.50%	75.30%	79.20%	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Employed Q4 Post Exit – DW (DOL)	MP	91.85%	77.30%	77.30%	71.00%	83.00%	80.20%	235 331		70.40%	69.60%	70.20%	73.60%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Median Earnings Q2 Post Exit – DW (DOL)	+P	110.50%	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00	\$10,386.91	\$10,305.06	\$10,421.04	n/a 304		\$9,262.79	\$10,285.62	\$11,390.00	\$10,640.71	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Credential Rate – DW (DOL)	-P	85.55%	79.60%	79.60%	68.10%	69.10%	79.20%	47 69		78.60%	81.30%	55.00%	63.20%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Measurable Skills Gains - DW (DOL)	+P	118.73%	75.80%	75.80%	90.00%	78.60%	67.90%	45 50		----	----	----	----	7/23	6/24
DOL-C 1	Employed/Enrolled Q2 Post Exit – Youth (DOL)	MP	95.15%	76.30%	76.30%	72.60%	75.20%	74.90%	188 259		59.60%	76.60%	76.70%	74.70%	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Employed/Enrolled Q4 Post Exit – Youth (DOL)	MP	96.69%	72.60%	72.60%	70.20%	78.60%	67.60%	151 215		67.70%	75.60%	59.60%	74.50%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Median Earnings Q2 Post Exit – Youth (DOL)	+P	115.92%	\$4,515.00	\$4,515.00	\$5,233.80	\$5,779.02	\$4,545.25	n/a 188		\$3,842.11	\$5,578.46	\$4,656.50	\$5,352.69	7/22	6/23
DOL-C 1	Credential Rate – Youth (DOL)	+P	118.26%	48.20%	48.20%	57.00%	56.00%	48.30%	61 107		35.70%	62.20%	57.70%	59.10%	1/22	12/22
DOL-C 1	Measurable Skills Gains - Youth (DOL)	+P	124.13%	54.30%	54.30%	67.40%	64.30%	51.60%	130 193		----	----	----	----	7/23	6/24
LBB-NK 1	Employed/Enrolled Q2 Post Exit – C&T Participants Except Other	MP	99.39%	66.00%	66.00%	65.60%	66.90%	61.20%	7,477 11,394		65.30%	65.70%	65.70%	65.80%	7/22	6/23
LBB-K 1	Employed/Enrolled Q2-Q4 Post Exit – C&T Participants Except Other	MP	98.33%	84.00%	84.00%	82.60%	86.40%	84.10%	5,235 6,335		83.30%	83.20%	81.30%	83.30%	1/22	12/22
LBB-K 1	Credential Rate – C&T Participants	MP	96.90%	71.00%	71.00%	68.80%	62.30%	66.20%	344 500		70.00%	65.00%	67.80%	73.00%	1/22	12/22

1. TWC recently rebuilt its reporting system for Career & Training programs and the data reported here and for the historical data has been updated to use this new system.

## Reemployment and Employer Engagement Measures

# BOARD SUMMARY REPORT - CONTRACTED MEASURES

BOARD NAME: TARRANT COUNTY

BOARD CONTRACT YEAR 2024 YEAR END REPORT

Source	Measure	Status	% Current Target	Current Target	EOY Target	Current Perf.	Prior Year End	2 Years Ago YE	YTD Num	YTD Den	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	From	To
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### Reemployment and Employer Engagement Measures

TWC	Claimant Reemployment within 10 Weeks	-P	94.88%	60.00%	60.00%	56.93%	60.05%	65.77%	21,142	37,140	58.30%	58.17%	55.34%	55.92%	7/23	6/24
TWC	Employers Receiving Texas Talent Assistance	+P	107.36%	3,792	3,792	4,071	4,013	3,421	-----	-----	2,276	1,297	1,501	1,386	10/23	9/24

### Program Participation Measures

TWC	Choices Full Engagement Rate - All Family	MP	102.34%	50.00%	50.00%	51.17%	53.17%	38.45%	40	78	54.22%	48.12%			10/23	3/24
2	Total															
LBB-K	Avg # Children Served Per Day - Combined	MP	102.42%	8,332	8,332	8,534	9,488	7,251	2,227,447	261	8,973	8,807	8,506	7,862	10/23	9/24

2. I|3 has been unable to replicate the report logic necessary to report this measure following the launch of the Workforce Case Management replacement in April 2024. As such, BCY24 performance will be based on Oct 2023 to March 2024 – the period for performance was able to be calculated.

**Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County  
Performance Report and Analysis  
August 2024 Year End**

Our board area is meeting or exceeding 20 of 22 contracted performance measures reported in the August 2024 Year End Monthly Performance Report. Below is an analysis of the 2 contracted measures that we did not meet.

**Credential Rate - Dislocated**

**Description** – The percent of Exiting Program Participants (Exiters) who were in Training/Education other than OJT or Employer Customized Training and who achieved a Recognized Credential within 1 year of Exit.

**Performance** - The target for this measure is 79.60%. The current performance result is 68.10% or 85.55% of the target. The current performance result is less than 5% of meeting the performance target.

**Corrective Action** – Contractor has reviewed the projected data and potential opportunities. We continue to work to identify any missed data entry. We currently need 7 more to meet and 3 to be within variance. We are focused on ensuring quality placements and better follow-up.

**Board Staff Analysis** – Starting April 2024, a new performance reporting system was implemented by the Texas Workforce Commission. Since the implementation, local Boards and Contractors are relying on the Texas Workforce Commission to provide the data results that lead to the performance results. Currently the Board and C2 Staff have limited ability to evaluate the results. Board Staff and C2 will continue to communicate this concern to the Texas Workforce Commission.

**Claimant Reemployed within 10 Weeks**

**Description** – The percent of monetarily eligible, registered initial claimants subject to work search reemployed within 10 weeks.

**Performance** - – Contractor staff are aggressively outreaching customers to provide services focusing on those within the first 10 weeks of receiving unemployment. Job search services as well as potential WIOA program enrollment is encouraged. Follow up is provided to ensure that employment outcomes are captured and correctly data entered. Performance data is not fully available, so this makes it difficult to ensure that the results are accurate.

**Board Staff Analysis** – Starting April 2024, a new performance reporting system was implemented by the Texas Workforce Commission. Since the implementation local Boards and Contractors are very limited accessing the data contributing to true performance results. The Board Staff and C2 will continue to communicate with the Texas Workforce Commission to improve current results. Currently the Board Staff has limited ability to evaluate performance results.

The target for this measure is 60.00%. The current performance result is 56.91% or 94.85% of the target. The current result is less than .05% percent of meeting performance.

**Corrective Action** – Contractor staff are aggressively outreaching customers to provide services focusing on those within the first 10 weeks of receiving unemployment. Job search services as well as potential WIOA program enrollment is encouraged. Follow up is provided to ensure that employment outcomes are captured and correctly data entered.

**Board Staff Analysis** – Starting April 2024, a new performance reporting system was implemented by the Texas Workforce Commission. Since the implementation, local Boards and Contractors are relying on the Texas Workforce Commission to provide the data results that lead to the performance results. Currently the Board and C2 Staff have limited ability to evaluate the results. Board Staff and C2 will continue to communicate this concern to the Texas Workforce Commission.

**TARRANT COUNTY FY25 LAYOFFS**  
**October 1, 2024 – present**

<b>COMPANY NAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>WARN DATE</b>	<b>NUMBER AFFECTED</b>	<b>TRADE</b>	<b>CLOSURES</b>
<i>LX Pantos</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>3/18/25</i>	<i>130</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Dairy Queen</i>	<i>N Richland Hills</i>	<i>3/17/25</i>	<i>12</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Allied Aviation</i>	<i>Grapevine</i>	<i>3/03/25</i>	<i>362</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (West I-20)</i>	<i>Arlington</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (Pipeline Rd)</i>	<i>Hurst</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (State Hwy 121)</i>	<i>Euless</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (Lake Worth Blvd)</i>	<i>Lake Worth</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (Sherry Lane)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (SW Loop 820)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (US287)</i>	<i>Mansfield</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (N Burleson Blvd)</i>	<i>Burleson</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>12</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Party City (Denton Hwy)</i>	<i>Watauga</i>	<i>2/10/25</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Lake Worth Blvd)</i>	<i>Lake Worth</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (McCart Ave)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Rufe Snow)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Central Drive)</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (S Cooper)</i>	<i>Arlington</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Keller Parkway)</i>	<i>Keller</i>	<i>1/28/25</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>American Freight (Southwest)</i>	<i>Arlington</i>	<i>11/14/24</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>American Freight (Town Square)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>11/14/24</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Haltom's Jewelers (Camp Bowie)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>11/14/24</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Haltom's Jewelers (Main St)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>11/14/24</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Haltom's Jewelers (Hwy 114)</i>	<i>Grapevine</i>	<i>11/14/24</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Radius Aerospace</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>11/05/24</i>	<i>65</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Seaquest Aquarkum</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/31/24</i>	<i>26</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Sodexo</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/29/24</i>	<i>75</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Dennis Uniform</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/24/24</i>	<i>139</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Overton Rigde_)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/10/24</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Eastchase Pkwy)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/10/24</i>	<i>17</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Walnit Creek Drive)</i>	<i>Mansfield</i>	<i>10/10/24</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<i>Big Lots (Green Oaks Rd)</i>	<i>Fort Worth</i>	<i>10/10/24</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>XXX</i>
<b>Total Companies: 31</b>	<b>Cities Impacted: 12</b>		<b>Total Affected: 1,134</b>	<b>Total: 0</b>	<b>Total: 31</b>

**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION**

April 9, 2025

- Action Item**                      **Submitted by:** Tyrone Taylor, WDB Chair  
 **Briefing Item**  
 **Committee Report.**    **Prepared by:** Lacey Douglas, Communication & Events Director
- 

**Action Requested:**

Authorize the Executive Director to award, negotiate and execute a lease for a facility to house the Arlington Workforce Center, in accordance with the direction provided by the WDB.

**Discussion:**

Tyrone Taylor, WDB Chair, will facilitate a discussion in Executive Session with the WDB Members regarding this matter. After the Executive Session, the appropriate action will be taken.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None



**Agenda  
March 19, 2025**

**TAWB Board Meeting**

**Tarrant County College  
2301 Horizon Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76177**

**3:30 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84232137928?pwd=axOBP0k99NodlPhZSkEJnwtGJOkdt4.1>

*Meeting ID: 842 3213 7928  
Passcode: 339564*

- 1. Welcome – Introductions**
- 2. Discussion and possible action on minutes from October 25, 2024, meeting.**
- 3. Discussion and possible action regarding the type and function of TAWB administration.**
  - a. Presentation by Mr. Michael Parks Executive Director – Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley and invited guest, Ms. Ginny Lewis Executive Director of the Texas Association of Regional Councils.**
  - b. Discussion of other models of administrative function to govern TAWB.**
- 4. Discussion and possible action assigning authorization for TAWB members to have signatory authority with respect to TAWB financial accounts.**
- 5. Other business as the TAWB board deems necessary.**
- 6. Adjourn**



**Q1 Meeting  
March 19-21, 2025**

**Tarrant County College, 2301 Horizon Drive, Fort Worth 76177**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, March 19: Tarrant County College <https://maps.app.goo.gl/szG3M71riYJKA8Lo8>**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organization / Entity</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>8:30-9am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; NETWORKING</b>		
<b>9-9:15am</b>	Welcome / Opening	Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas and Tarrant County College	Mercedes Bolen Phedra Redifer Dr. Pamela Anglin, CFO
<b>9:15-9:45am</b>	AllianceTX / Hillwood Smart Port Project	Hillwood (A Perot Company)	Nick Konen, Director, Strategic Development
<b>9:45-10am</b>	Tarrant County College – Corporate Solutions and Economic Development	Tarrant County College	Alex Cowen Business Development
<b>10-11am</b>	TX Economic Development Department's Strategic Plan: Pillar Alignment to Workforce System Objectives	State of Texas & Texas Workforce Investment Council	Terry Zrubek Kaki Leyens
<b>11-11:15am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>11:15am-12pm</b>	Texas Workforce Commission	State of Texas	Commissioner Joe Esparza (Representing Employers)
<b>12-1pm</b>	<b>ON-SITE LUNCH PROVIDED</b> WIOA Reauthorization Update (USCM/WDC) – Tamara Atkinson/Capital Area		
<b>1-2:30pm</b>	State Agency Updates / Legislative Session Update	Texas Workforce Commission Staff	Ed Serna, Mary York, Reagan Miller
<b>2:30-2:45pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>2:45-3:30pm</b>	SNAP E&T Third Party Partnerships between WDBs and Community Colleges	CAEL	Rachel Hirsch
<b>3:30-5:30pm</b>	TAWB Business Meeting	TAWB Leadership	Robert Orzabal
<b>6pm</b>	<b>GROUP OFF-SITE DINNER AT TOWNE GRILL</b> <b>9365 Rain Lily Trail, Fort Worth, TX 76177</b> <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/szG3M71riYJKA8Lo8">9365 Rain Lily Trail - Google Maps</a>		



**Q1 Meeting  
March 19-21, 2025**

**Tarrant County College, 2301 Horizon Drive, Fort Worth 76177**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, March 20: Tarrant County College <https://maps.app.goo.gl/szG3M71riYJKA8Lo8>**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organization / Entity</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>8:30-10am</b>	TCC CEATL Campus Tour	Tarrant County College	Michael Esquivel, Dean, Business and Industry
<b>10-11am</b>	Developing the Semiconductor Workforce of the Future	TIP Strategies / NCTCOG - Tech Hub Consortium / Texoma Workforce Board	Tom Stellman Prit Patel, James Grimsley
<b>11-11:15am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>11:15am-12pm</b>	Child Care Policy Legislative Session Update	Child Care Associates	Kara Waddell, CEO
<b>12-1:30pm</b>	<b>ON-SITE LUNCH PROVIDED</b> WSNCT Data Dashboards – Kirsten Jakowitsch, North Central Texas		
<b>1:30-2pm</b>	<b>TRAVEL TO RECARO</b> 2275 Eagle Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177 <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y12ydY4qXyaCTqAT8">https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y12ydY4qXyaCTqAT8</a>		
<b>2-4pm</b>	<b>RECARO Aircraft Seating Americas</b> Factory Tour		
<b>6pm</b>	<b>OFF-SITE DINNER – ON OWN</b>		



**Q1 Meeting  
March 19-21, 2025**

**Tarrant County College, 2301 Horizon Drive, Fort Worth 76177**

**AGENDA**

**Friday, March 21: Texas Motor Speedway, 3545 Lone Star Circle, Fort Worth, TX 76177**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ifbPHv1om3MVM62n6>

Time	Topic	Organization / Entity	Speakers
9-10am	WIN / TAWB Business Meeting	WIN / TAWB Leadership	Lisa McDaniel Robert Orzabal
10-11:00am	<p align="center"><b>Economic Impacts and Workforce Development Programs Panel Discussion</b></p> <p align="center">Brent Franks – President, North Texas Automobile Dealers Michael Beauchamp, Automotive Career &amp; Technical Ed. Instructor, Granbury ISD Chris Kelsey – Regional Manager, CR England Moderator: Phedra Redifer, Executive Director, Workforce Solutions N. Central Texas</p>		
11-11:30am	<p align="center"><b>Texas Motor Speedway</b></p> <p align="center">Mark Faber – General Manager, Texas Motor Speedway</p>		
11:30-12pm	<b>ON-SITE LUNCH PROVIDED</b>		
12-2pm	<p align="center">Driving Experiences <b>ADJOURN</b></p>		

**From:** National Association of Workforce Boards <[communications@nawb.ccsend.com](mailto:communications@nawb.ccsend.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:46 AM  
**Subject:** House Passes Bill to Extend Funding Through End of FY25



### **House Passes Bill to Extend Funding Through End of FY25; Senate Path Unclear**

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed [a bill](#) to fund federal government operations for the remainder of the current fiscal year (ending September 30, 2025). Current federal funding is due to expire this Friday, March 14. The Senate is expected to consider the bill this week, but passage is uncertain at this time.

The bill, which passed by a narrow margin of 217-213, does the following:

- Maintains current funding for major formula grant programs, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). However, the legislation allows federal departments a great deal of discretion in how the funds will be spent during the year.
- Eliminates \$107 million for the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Demonstration and Pilot authority funding (through which several discretionary grants are funded)
- Cuts \$75 million from DOL's dislocated worker national reserve funding (where many existing national programs are funded). How this would or would not impact specific programs currently funded from these accounts remains to be seen and would be determined by DOL if this legislation were to be enacted.
- Increases defense funding by \$6 billion
- Cuts non-defense discretionary funding by \$13 billion
- Rescinds \$20 billion from the Internal Revenue Service

All but one House Republican voted for the bill, and all but one Democrat opposed the bill. Their opposition stemmed from the amount of discretion given to the Trump Administration to pursue future policy changes beyond what is outlined in this bill.

U.S. Senate passage will require 60 votes, meaning it will take all 53 Republicans plus seven Democrats for the bill to pass. It is unclear at this time how many senators will support the bill.

NAWB will keep you updated as things develop. In the meantime, here are a few resources to learn more:

[Text of the bill](#)

[Previous year's funding bill](#) (FY24) to cross-reference the text

[House Republicans statement on the bill](#)

[House Democrats statement on the bill](#)

# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR TARRANT COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATION

April 9, 2025

- Action Item**                      **Submitted by:** Lacey Douglas, Communication & Events Director  
 **Briefing Item**  
 **Committee Report.**    **Prepared by:** Lacey Douglas, Communication & Events Director
- 

## **Action Requested:**

Receive the Communications & Events Report

## **Discussion:**

Below is an overview of the outreach activities Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County has been involved in since we last met.

### **Layoff Outreach in Tarrant County**

In February, WSTC started posting targeted outreach messages for those recently displaced from their job ([snapshot of the posts attached to this report](#)). You read about it in the news every day, from federal workers to those that work at Southwest Airlines and many in between. What we are finding, is many of these companies are doing the layoffs quick and may not be providing Rapid Response services.

We have amazing Layoff resources and we want to make sure people have access to them. Our message is simple, “As you navigate these uncertain times, we are here to help Tarrant County!”

This outreach has resulted in multiple companies reaching out and asking about our Layoff packets (we linked to the digital copy in the posts). Limous Walker, Rapid Response/ TAA Associate Director has been fielding these requests.

### **Recent WSTC Press Releases and Media Activity**

#### **WSTC Press Releases:**

- Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County announced the selection of the new Executive Director, Robert Sturns (February 13, 2025): [Press Release attached](#).
- WSTC received a Teacher Externship Grant to connect CTE teachers with high demand industries (March 25, 2025): [Press Release attached](#).

#### **WSTC Media Activity:**

- Fort Worth Business Press, The Fort Worth Report and others picked up our press release and reported on the announcement of our new Executive Director, Robert Sturns.
- Nicole Allen, Child Care Director was quoted in a Star Telegram Article titled “How could Tarrant County child care be impacted by federal layoffs, new immigration policy?” [Article is attached](#).

### **Neighborhood Strategies Initiative Outreach / Events Update**

- With the addition of the William M. McDonald YMCA to our satellite locations we have updated all our Neighborhood Strategies Initiative outreach material. It is currently being printed and will be distributed this month to the community. [Updated flyer is attached](#).
- We held our first Neighborhood JOB FAIR at the McDonald YMCA on March 19, 2025. This was in partnership with: Building Pathways, City of Fort Worth - Martin Luther King (MLK) Community Center, McDonald YMCA, Renaissance Heights and WSTC.

- Below is a recap of the numbers (at this month's Board meeting we will share a wrap up video):
  - 425 Job Seekers in attendance – this has been the largest Neighborhood job fair to date.
  - 18 job seekers who identified as Veterans or spouse of a Veteran
  - 27 Employers attended
  - 702 Jobs our Employers had available
  - 157 Interviews have been scheduled or conducted (as reported in our employer survey)
  - 30 firm offers have been made (as reported in our employer survey)
- Our next Neighborhood JOB FAIR will be at the Northside Community Center on September 18, 2025, from 10am to 2pm.

### Jobs Y'all Event(s) Update

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County receives special funding from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to conduct Jobs Y'all events for middle school, high school, and postsecondary students. These events introduce students to career opportunities in their respective industries and students and parents are encouraged to explore opportunities for in-demand careers, industry networking, internships, and other applied learning opportunities. In March we partnered on the following events:

- **JA Inspire:**
  - Workforce Solutions partnered with Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail, Inc. (Fort Worth) and Fort Worth ISD to host a Career Expo at the FWISD TLC Building on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - 570 students from Azle, Castleberry, Lake Worth, Grapevine-Colleyville, and Fort Worth ISD were in attendance. Students learned about career paths and job opportunities from a variety of industries and career fields.
  - Our staff hosted a booth where we used our VR Goggles to allow young adults to explore firsthand, with the help of Virtual Reality Goggles the industry opportunities available to them in Tarrant County.
- **DFW Construction Career Day:**
  - Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas hosted a DFW Construction Career Day on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Globe Life Field. WSTC was proud to be a sponsor of the hands-on learning experience that helped educate and inspire the next generation of construction professionals by providing practical insights and real-world exposure. We are happy to report many of our Tarrant County ISDs and employers participated in this fabulous event. The early numbers reported that the event hosted:
    - 72 employers
    - 954 students
    - 196 teachers
  - Our staff hosted a booth where we used our VR Goggles to allow young adults to explore firsthand, with the help of Virtual Reality Goggles the industry opportunities available to them in Tarrant County.

### Other Upcoming Events

- **Arlington Area Job Fair:**
  - April 24, 2024: (10am to 2pm)– Arlington Area Job Fair (In-person) – Hosts include: Rush Creek Church, Arlington ISD, City of Arlington, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. This event will host 80 employers looking to fill 2,000+ job openings. For more information or to register visit: <https://workforcesolutions.net/event/2024-arlington-area-job-fair/>
- **Continuing the Climb Job Fair**
  - May 22, 2024: (10am to 2pm) – Continuing the Climb Virtual Job Fair – Hosts include: Cornerstone Assistance Network, Goodwill Industries North Central Texas, Redemption Bridge, Reentry First Stop Center for Tarrant County, Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (T.O.R.I.), Unlocking Doors and Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. For more information or to register visit: <https://workforcesolutions.net/event/continuing-the-climb-re-entry-job-and-resource-fair-court-in-the-community-event/>

- **WSTC Biz Boost (Employer Networking Event):**
  - WSTC Biz Boost is a networking event designed to elevate business connections. Our employer services team facilitated a collaborative platform where entrepreneurs, professionals and business owners came together to share insight, exchange ideas and forge meaningful relationships.
  - Our team highlights the latest programs we oversee to help assure that the businesses in our area remain competitive and grow jobs while giving employers in the area a chance to connect.
  - The next event will be at the newly opened, Taste Project in Arlington, Texas. More information to come but it is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **More Events being added to our Events Calendar:**
  - We are still securing a few additional in-person and virtual events for the rest of the year and will have those to share soon.
  - Where to find Job Fairs and other Employment Event Information: <https://workforcesolutions.net/events/>
  - To make sure and catch the latest from us: Visit our website, follow us on social media and sign up for our Alerts! <https://workforcesolutions.net/contact-us/#alerts>

### **Social Media**

- Workforce Solutions has been hard at work to help people stay informed. We encourage you to follow our channels and help keep others informed by sharing our information. You can find us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). Here is a breakdown of the outreach on our platforms since we last met:
  - Posted 127 times (across 4 channels)
  - Answered 116 messages/comments
  - Total Net Audience Growth: 161
  - Largest growth was on the LinkedIn Platform
  - Second largest growth was on Facebook, followed by Instagram
  - 464 Post Clicks
  - We posted 2 YouTube Videos: 1 Success Story (Sandra's Story) and the Neighborhood Job Fair wrap up video.

### **Newsletters**

- Stay connected and informed about the latest updates, news, and opportunities in Tarrant County. Our newsletters provide valuable insights and resources for both job seekers and employers. Explore our latest editions, subscribe to stay in the loop and dive into our newsletter archive. <https://workforcesolutions.net/about-us/newsletters/>
- **Executive Director's E-Newsletter:** We are currently refreshing our Executive Director's Newsletter. We will be re-launching it soon.
- **Community News:** Read the latest community news, resources and events from around Tarrant County.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None

## Snapshot of Social Media posts - Layoff Outreach

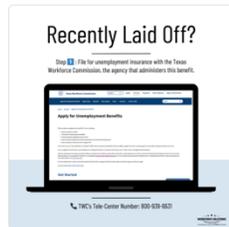
Have you recently lost your job? Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County has resources to help guide you through this process.

Step 1: File for unemployment insurance with the Texas Workforce Commission, the agency that administers this benefit.

TWC's website for more information on this process including how to apply: <https://lnkd.in/dByn58WW>

TWC's Tele-Center Number: 800-939-6631

As you navigate these uncertain times, we are here to help Tarrant County! We will be sharing additional resources this week to assist during these difficult times.



Have you recently lost your job? Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County has resources to help guide you through this process.

for Step 2 in our previous post.

Step 3: Check out all the upcoming Job Fairs WSTC has to offer!

All the information including how to register and who will be attending can be found here: <https://bit.ly/4iQ5xou>

We are always updating information on our events calendar. While you are visiting our website check out our employment workshops, offered in person or virtually to help you prepare for the upcoming job fairs.

As you navigate these uncertain times, we are here to help Tarrant County!  
#tarrantcounty #career #jobfair #opportunities #hiring



Have you recently lost your job? Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County has resources to help guide you through this process.

for Step 1 in our previous post.

Step 2: Contact Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, we can help you on your Reemployment Journey.

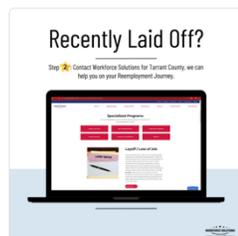
Layoff Packet, which has lots of great resources to help you through this process: <https://lnkd.in/gYJgY72>

Call us, 817.413.4000 (M-F 8am to 5pm) - we can assist you with your [WorkInTexas.com](https://www.workintexas.com) profile to receive job leads

Chat with staff on our website: [www.workforcesolutions.net](https://www.workforcesolutions.net) (M-F 8am to 5pm)

Email us at: [info@workforcesolutions.net](mailto:info@workforcesolutions.net)

As you navigate these uncertain times, we are here to help Tarrant County!



Have you recently lost your job? Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County has resources to help guide you through this process.

for Step 3 in our previous post.

Step 4: Check out Sandra's Story. She came into our Arlington Workforce Center after losing her job and worked with the staff to discover a new career and financial stability. Congratulations to Sandra and the obstacles she has overcome!

<https://lnkd.in/guh5AhfA>

As you navigate these uncertain times, we are here to help Tarrant County!  
#tarrantcounty #career #jobfair #opportunities #hiring





A proud partner of the American Job Center network

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Lacey Douglas, WSTC  
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## **WSTC Announces New Executive Director**



TARRANT COUNTY, Texas (February 13, 2025) – After a nationwide search, the Workforce Leadership Committee, with endorsement from the Workforce Development and Workforce Governing Board has selected Robert Sturns as the next Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC). Mr. Sturns will start his new role with WSTC in March of 2025 until that date, Jill Navarrete will serve as the Interim Executive Director.

Robert is a proven executive leader with over 30 years’ experience in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Sturns has demonstrated excellence in consensus building, board governance, organizational strategy, collaboration, relationship management, and developing high performing teams.

In his previous role as Economic Development Director for the City of Fort Worth, he had a successful track record of driving new capital investment within highly competitive environments resulting in over \$6.4 billion of new investment and 34,000 jobs announced. He has been responsible for the implementation of a number of innovative programs including the establishment of a Medical Innovation District and designation of a Media Production Development Zone to enhance growth opportunities in the life sciences and media production sectors.

Robert holds a Master of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Bachelor of Arts from Stephen F. Austin State University. In addition, he is an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School Leading Economic Growth Program and proud former officer in the United States Army Reserve.

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“We are thrilled to welcome Robert to the team,” said Tyrone Taylor, Workforce Development Board Chair. “His leadership in economic development, combined with his vision for workforce innovation, will be invaluable as we continue to build a skilled and dynamic workforce in Tarrant County. One that drives regional economic success and helps bridge the gap between talent and opportunity.”

"I look forward to joining the team at Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, and continue to serve a region that I already know and love through a new economic development lens," said Robert. "While Tarrant County's growth over the past decade has been a key driver in bringing new economic investment to the area, a highly-skilled workforce is critical to maintaining that momentum, and I'm eager to work with partners and stakeholders across the region to build on that success."

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Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC), under the direction of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce development boards located throughout the state. WSTC's primary goal is to meet the needs of Tarrant County employers and workers through locally designed market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers and job seekers are eligible to take advantage of these services. The 29-member Workforce Development Board (WDB) is made up of business and community leaders and is chaired by Tyrone Taylor. The WDB works in partnership with the Workforce Governing Board (WGB), which is composed of Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker, Arlington Mayor Jim Ross and chaired by Tarrant County Judge Tim O'Hare, to oversee Workforce services in Tarrant County. More information can be found at [www.workforcesolutions.net](http://www.workforcesolutions.net) or by calling 817.413.4000.



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## **WSTC receives Teacher Externship Grant to connect CTE teachers with high demand industries**

TARRANT COUNTY, Texas (March 25, 2025) – Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) announces the launch of a Teacher Externship Program aimed to significantly enhance the quality of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle and high schools across Tarrant County.

WSTC received grant funding from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for this hands-on externship experience. This program aims to bridge the critical gap between theoretical classroom instruction and practical, real-world application. It will serve up to 75 Tarrant County CTE teachers/counselors in high-demand industries such as Aerospace, Business Administration, Construction, Hospitality, Logistics and Manufacturing.

Educators will participate in 20-hour externships (5 days x 4 hours) with selected Tarrant County employers, where they will observe operations, learn about industry-specific skills and collaborate with industry professionals to develop curriculum enhancements. This experience will empower them to develop and implement relevant, engaging lesson plans that directly align with industry needs, ultimately benefiting an estimated 5,000 students across the region.

WSTC is calling on Tarrant County businesses to participate by hosting one or more educators during the externship. Employers who host will play a crucial role in shaping the future workforce by providing educators with the tools they need to inspire the next generation of professionals.

Businesses interested in hosting a teacher can apply by visiting:  
<https://bit.ly/externshiptarrantemployer>.

Participants in the externship will earn a stipend and have the opportunity to immerse themselves in local businesses, gaining firsthand experience that will help them better guide students toward diverse career paths.

CTE teachers /counselors interested in applying can visit the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/externshiptarrantteacher> .

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“The Teacher Externship Program is crucial because it bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world industry experience, empowering educators to better prepare students for the workforce and ensuring that the skills taught in the classroom align with the needs of today’s employers,” said Renee Parker, Business Services Associate Director for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County.

The Teacher Externship Grant will be executed through a strategic partnership between Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (WSTC) and InterLink, Inc. Similar programs are being offered by Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas (WFSDallas) and Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (WSNCT).

For more information including flyers and interest form links for both Employers and Educators please visit: <https://workforcesolutions.net/job-seeker-services/specialized-programs/#teacherexternship> .

###

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## How could Tarrant County child care be impacted by federal layoffs, new immigration policy?

By Lina Ruiz

March 10, 2025 5:30 AM



President Donald Trump and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speak with children at the NRG Center in Pearland on Sept. 2, 2017. Courtney Sacco Caller-Times via USA TODAY NETWORK

Local child care providers and advocates say they have yet to feel tangible impacts from the recent staffing cuts of their federal colleagues or from changes in federal immigration protocols, but one says it could only be a matter of time.

In recent weeks, 20% of federal staff at the Office of Head Start and 25% of staff at the Office of Child Care were laid off, nationwide child care advocates shared in a recent virtual press conference. The offices, part of the U.S. Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, are run by staff who provide guidance and resources that ultimately impact local child care communities. Among the responsibilities are oversight of the Child Care Development Fund, which provides financial assistance for child care costs to low-income families across the country.

The cuts to these offices coincide with a mass exodus seen across several federal agencies under the direction of President Donald Trump's administration and the Department of Government Efficiency. A former Administration for Children and Families employee, who asked to remain unnamed, told the Star-

Telegram the cuts appeared to mostly affect employees in the midst of their probationary work periods, or the first year of their employment with the agency. The employee called the firings “unprecedented” and “unusual.”

The Administration for Children and Families did not respond to the Star-Telegram’s requests for comment about the firings.

Kym Shaw Day, executive director of the Fort Worth-based Early Learning Alliance, said in a statement the cuts could have a disproportionate effect on families in underserved areas, warning that the firings “will have significant consequences for children and families in Tarrant County.”

“Tarrant County is experiencing an uptick in child care deserts, leaving families with fewer options for quality care in their neighborhoods. The firing of these staff members could result in reduced access to vital early childhood programs, potentially affecting the development and well-being of children in Tarrant County,” she said. “These offices play a crucial role in providing essential services such as child care subsidies, home visiting initiatives, and early intervention services.”

“It’s a concerning situation. The Early Learning Alliance, the ECE (early childhood education) community and stakeholders in Tarrant County will continue working together to address these and other challenges. We want to ensure that our children and families receive the support they need,” she added.

The virtual press conference discussing the impacts of these layoffs was hosted by the Child Care for Every Family Network, Zero to Three, the National Women’s Law Center, MomsRising and Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat from Washington state. Speakers voiced frustrations over what they say is an active attack on programs meant to serve low-income families, including expected cuts to Medicaid and other safety net programs.

“Families need solutions, but what’s happening in Washington now is only adding fuel to the fire. Just weeks ago, the administration froze federal funding, throwing Head Start centers into disarray,” said Matthew Melmed, executive director of national nonprofit Zero to Three. “The (Trump) administration promised to expand child care and make life easier for families. How does freezing funds, firing experts and gutting health care help families? It doesn’t.”

Carolina Reyes, a member of MomsRising and director of Arco Iris Bilingual Children’s Center in Laurel, Maryland, said the past month has been “harrowing” for child care providers like herself. She emphasized the abundance of research showing the rapid growth of brain development that happens in a child’s first five years of life — 90% of brain development happens during this time.

“The care we provide enables our parents to be in the workforce and provide for their families. I am proud that because of Head Start, we are able to offer these opportunities to families who otherwise would not have access,” she said. “Let’s be clear, if Trump and his allies gut child care and Head Start, programs will close (and) kids will miss out on essential early learning opportunities. Parents will lose jobs and struggle to put food on the table.”

Nicole Allen, child care director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, said the local office had not been officially informed of the recent federal cuts. The office, which operates under the Texas Workforce Commission, distributes financial child care assistance to eligible families and provides resources to child care providers that are part of Texas Rising Star, a quality rating and improvement program.

“All information received has been from social media platforms and published updates. The child care program has not been impacted on the local level,” she said.

Child Care Associates, based in Fort Worth and one of the largest child development organizations in North Texas, said it “has remained singularly focused on services to the families in our community.”

“CCA is fully operating our services as normal and yet continue to monitor the context on behalf of our families,” President and CEO Kara Waddell said in a statement.

Katie Hamm, the former deputy assistant secretary for early childhood development at the Administration for Children and Families, took to LinkedIn to share news of the cuts and the short- and long-term impacts in mid-February. She’s helped her former colleagues with job searches in wake of the firings.

“This action will have far reaching and damaging impacts on early care and education in communities across the country,” she wrote on LinkedIn. “What will it mean? In the short term, slower grant awards, approval for facilities projects, longer timelines for resolving oversight matters, less technical assistance... the list goes on. In the long term, it’s an immense loss of talent and subject matter expertise. We have lost dedicated public servants who gave up the prospect of lucrative private sector careers to serve children and families.”

Hamm’s employment at the agency ended in January before the wider cuts took place, which she expected amid the presidential transition after serving in her role as a political appointee of former President Joe Biden, she told the Star-Telegram. She oversaw funding streams for early childhood programs across the offices of child care, early childhood development and Head Start.

“These terminations could have far reaching impacts on children, families, and communities,” she said. “A 20-25% reduction in staffing reduces the efficacy of these offices that play a key role in keeping child care affordable or free for participating families and ensuring that programs adhere to health and safety standards that protect children. Reduced staffing increases the likelihood of funding delays, which especially impacts rural or remote areas with fewer resources to sustain operations without timely federal grants.”

### **Immigration policy**

In addition to the staffing cuts, child care centers are grappling with a policy reversal that had previously protected centers from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. These programs, along with K-12 schools and churches, were considered “sensitive locations” since 2011, but a new directive by the Trump administration and Department of Homeland Security appears to allow agents to enter these spaces.

Many Tarrant County child care providers are steering clear of making public comments on this change in policy, according to Shaw Day of the Early Learning Alliance. One provider, who asked to not be identified, said only parents and adults on a child’s pick-up list would be allowed in their facility. Law enforcement officers who visit the facility must present a warrant before they can enter.

Child Care Associates, which operates a handful of centers across the county, said the organization and other licensed child care providers follow the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Child Care Regulations “to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our care.”

The state Department of Family and Protective Services referred questions from the Star-Telegram to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which also plays a regulatory role over child care centers. A spokesperson said the agency has not issued specific guidance regarding immigration enforcement activity.

“Our top priority at HHSC is the health and safety of children in the child care operations we regulate. HHSC inspects operations, evaluates compliance with minimum standards, gives technical assistance on how to comply with minimum standards and takes enforcement action when warranted,” spokesperson James Rivera said in a statement. “A daycare center is expected to follow all established local, state, and federal laws to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in their care.”

A 2021 Texas Health and Human Services booklet outlining minimum standards for child care centers says “law enforcement officers and DFPS Child Protective Services staff have the authority by law to remove a child without a parent’s permission.” It also directs child care providers to create policies for the release of children, “including a plan to verify the identity of a person authorized to pick up a child but whom the caregiver does not know.”

“Your policies must include a reasonable means to record the identity of the individual, such as a copy of a valid photo identification, an instant photograph of the individual, or recording the driver’s license number and car tag numbers. You must retain this information in the child’s records for at least three months,” it states.

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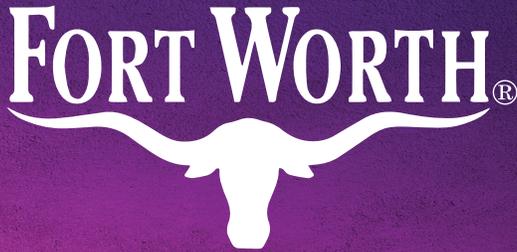
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