

**Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas
Executive Committee Meeting**



Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas
500 Chestnut St. STE 1200, Lone Star Room
Abilene, Texas 79602

Virtual: [Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**
- II. Approve minutes of November 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting (Action item)**
Minutes included on page 2-3 of the agenda packet
- III. Early Childhood Advisory Council nominations (Action item)**
Additional information included on page 4 of the agenda packet
- IV. Child care fraud investigation updates**
Additional information included on page 5-6 of the agenda packet
- V. CEO Report**
- VI. Possible Executive Session**
- VII. Adjourn**

Prior to the discussion of Action Items, Board Members must declare any possible Conflict of Interest, and then abstain from discussing and voting on that issue; abstentions will be recorded in the meeting minutes. In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code Chapter 551, if a member of the public or of the Board inquires about a subject that is not on the agenda, and for which notice has not been given as required, any discussion of or decision about the subject of the inquiry shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting. The Executive Committee may vote to enter Executive Session, or a closed private session without public attendance, to take up the following item(s) in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. No voting may take place in Executive Session. Any possible course of action discussed by the Board in Executive Session must be taken up and voted on in the open, public session.

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board Executive Committee

Monday November 17, 2025

12:00 PM

**Abilene Workforce Center, Lone Star Room, 12th Floor
500 Chestnut Street, Abilene, Texas**

Attending:

Dick Williams, Chair
Veronica Diaz, Secretary-Treasurer
Ken Becker, Sub-Regional Representative
Mike Snead, Regional Representative
Chance Barr, Regional Representative (via Zoom)

Absent: Laura Bowers, Regional Representative

Board Staff:

Amelia Reeves, CEO
Jessica Hayhurst, Administrative & Program Support Specialist

I. Call to Order

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM and declared that a quorum was present.

II. Chair Appointment of Executive Committee member

Chair Williams: Due to the vacancy created by Dan Henson's departure, and in accordance with Board Bylaws requiring balanced sub-regional representation, the Chair appointed **Ken Becker** (private industry representative, Nolan County) to fill the remaining term for the Executive Committee seat designated for sub-region II or V.

III. Approve Minutes of September 18, 2025 Meeting (Action Item)

Motion and Second: Veronica Diaz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2025. Mike Snead seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Consider Executive Session per Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.074 relating to personnel and Section 551.076 relating to cybersecurity (Action Item)

Motion and Second: **Ken Becker** made a motion to enter into executive session at 12:07 pm. **Chance Barr** seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Members concluded executive session at 12:41 p.m.

V. Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB) Membership (Action Item)

Motion and Second: **Ken Becker** made a motion to recommend to the Board to not renew **TAWB membership at this time, monitor over time and re-evaluate in future, if needed.** **Mike Snead** seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VI. CEO Updates, Amelia Reeves

- The Board successfully coordinated three regional industry tour days, balancing both employer capacity and student impact. The tours included Construction, Healthcare, and Manufacturing sectors. Finance Industry tour day is scheduled for November 19. The Board is exploring how to expand these opportunities to middle school students.
- The inaugural Career Pathways Summit was a success. Positive feedback was received from attendees, as well as guests from postsecondary and industry who helped lead sessions and panels. The Board made a new connection with Brandt/Southand Inc., a large sub-contractor with the Stargate data center project. The Board plans to host another Career Pathways Summit June 2026.
- TWC Annual Monitoring starts today (November 17). Official exit reports should be available by the February Board Meeting.
- Amelia requested insight on communications and Board committee structure to support ongoing Board engagement. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions shared in Executive Committee include:
 - Board Staff department leads attend Board meetings to provide updates on current activities, progress on grants, and program development. It was suggested to allocated 5-10 minutes for leads to present, providing staff an opportunity to develop presentation skills and strengthen Board Staff leadership team.
 - Suggestion was made to allow for adequate time in all Board meetings for open discussion around key issues. We do not need to be held to a strict hour timeframe if valuable presentations and discussions could be had.

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

III. Early Childhood Advisory Council nominations

Background: At the December 2025 Board Meeting, the Early Childhood Advisory Council Charter was updated. The Member Appointments and Terms section was updated as follows: “The Board Executive Committee, with input from the Council, will be responsible for developing recommendations for appointments and reappointments. All such appointments and reappointments will be made during a regular meeting of the Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board.”

Discussion: The Council has brought forth for consideration the following recommendations:

- Amy Cohen, Education and Child Development Division Chair, Cisco College
- Vicki Hayhurst, Associate Director of Federal Programs, Region 14 Education Service Center
- Michelle Parrish, Grants Director, Community Foundation of Abilene
- Ravi Savari, Managing Director, C2Global Services

The current makeup of the Early Childhood Advisory Council is outlined below with nominees highlighted in yellow.

Licensed child care center participating in TWC’s Child Care Services (CCS) program	Carrie Pierce – Junior Buckaroo Academy Cynthia Pearson – Day Nursery
Licensed or registered child care homes participating in CCS	Jennifer Gonzalez – RCCH
Current or former CCS families	VACANT
Board CCS contractor	Ravi Savari – C2Global Services
Board member	Cynthia Pearson – Day Nursery Carrie Pierce – Junior Buckaroo Academy
Education/training provider	Amy Cohen – Cisco College
Child care stakeholders	Noreen White – ECI
	Vicki Hayhurst – ESC 14
	Michelle Parrish - Community Foundation of Abilene

Board Staff is still actively conducting outreach to identify additional nominees to bring forth, specifically in the Current or former CCS families and Licensed child care center categories. Board and Council members are encouraged to submit recommendations to Mindy Ross, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, or Carrie Pierce, current Council Chair

IV. Child care fraud investigation updates

On January 5, 2026, Governor Abbott issued a letter directing the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), to further implement anti-fraud measures and launch investigations into any potential fraud and misdirection of Texas taxpayer dollars. The original letter is included on page 6 of this packet. TWC provided email messaging for communication to all providers enrolled in CCS on 1/7, 1/9, and 1/16. **As of the final update on 1/16, TWC is not anticipating any changes in CCS payments to providers.**

There are two main action steps TWC has directed the Boards to take at this point that has resulted in new or additional processes.

- Ensure CCS providers are inputting attendance into the TX3C system.
- Identify Board staff to investigate potential child care fraud based on a high-risk assessment currently being developed by TWC.

The following processes were already in place that help mitigate instances of fraud. These processes were also outlined in an email from CEO, Amelia Reeves, to all Board members and Chief Elected Officials on January 5, 2026.

- We partner with child care providers who are licensed or registered with Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing (CCL) or are operated and monitored by the U.S. military.
- Providers under Corrective or Adverse Action with CCL are not eligible for funding.
- Providers disqualified from the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program are reciprocally excluded from participating in the child care scholarship program.
- Providers must accept the maximum CCS payment rate (minus the parent share of cost) or their published rate if it is lower.
- Providers are required to maintain records for CCS-subsidized children for three years and three months, as mandated by federal law.
- WFSWCT staff conduct regular mentor visits and audits to support full compliance and identify any potential issues early.



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 5, 2026

Chairman Jose A. "Joe" Esparza
Texas Workforce Commission
101 East 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78778

Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711-3248

Dear Chairman Esparza and Commissioner Muth,

Access to childcare is vital to the wellbeing and success of Texas families, which is why it is essential to protect the integrity of Texas' Child Care Services Program. Recently, the Trump Administration and independent journalists have discovered potential systematic fraud in subsidized childcare systems of other states. State agencies have a duty to take proactive steps to prevent, detect, and eliminate the misuse of taxpayer funds.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) already have strong anti-fraud processes in place like routine audits of providers and in-person site visits to facilities to ensure the physical safety of Texas children and the good stewardship of state dollars. These strong anti-fraud measures have shown results as Texas' percentage of improper payment rates is 0.43 percent, compared to Minnesota's approximately 11 percent according to the most recently available federal data. However, more can be done to protect Texas children and taxpayers.

Schemes like the ones uncovered in Minnesota harm taxpayers as well as other families and children waiting to participate in the Child Care Services Program. Waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars will not be tolerated and will be punished to the fullest extent of the law in Texas.

TWC has broad authority under Chapter 301 of the Texas Labor Code to enhance fraud detection and prevention efforts within the Child Care Service Program. HHSC has authority under Chapter 42 of the Texas Human Resources Code to regulate childcare facilities to protect children's health safety and welfare and inspect facilities for compliance.

Therefore, considering revelations about the fraudulent misuse of taxpayer funds in other states, I direct you to take the following actions:

- Identify high-risk providers who participate in the Child Care Services Program and conduct additional site visits of those providers to ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations;
- Review current data collection efforts related to the Child Care Services Program and ensure TWC and Local Workforce Development Boards are taking all possible steps to prevent, detect, and eliminate fraudulent activity within the program;
- Ensure that all providers participating in the Child Care Services Program are accurately and verifiably reporting the number of children enrolled in the program;
- Conduct reviews of Child Care Services Program oversight processes for Local Workforce Development Boards to verify standards of the program are uniformly upheld. For any boards that do not meet standards, corrective action shall be taken, including but not limited to, providing additional trainings and education resources;
- Enhance access to their online portal and hotline, so Texans can easily report instances of fraud in Texas' childcare system; and
- Submit all completed provider fraud investigations to federal or state prosecutors as appropriate.

HHSC and TWC will provide a progress report back to my office on January 30, 2026, and a final report on their efforts on February 27, 2026.

I will continue to work with executive branch agencies to fight fraud, protect taxpayer dollars, and promote accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare for Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott", written in a cursive style.

Greg Abbott
Governor