

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



Date: Monday, February 9, 2026

Time: 3:30 PM

Location: VIRTUAL MEETING

Virtual: [Join the meeting now](#)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**
- II. Approve minutes of January 21, 2026 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. 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 January 21, 2026

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
Laura Bowers, Regional Representative
Chance Barr, Regional Representative

Absent:

Board Staff:

Amelia Reeves, CEO
Melissa Mauricio, Admin Services & HR Manager

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Diaz called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM and declared that a quorum was present.

II. Approve Minutes of November 17, 2025 Meeting (Action Item)

Motion and Second: Mike Snead made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2025. Chance Barr seconded. **Vote:** The motion passed by unanimous vote.

III. Early Childhood Advisory Council nominations (Action item)

The Member Appointments and Terms section of the Early Childhood Advisory Council Charter was amended to read 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."

The Early Childhood Advisory Council presented the following individuals for consideration as members:

- **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

Board staff reported that outreach efforts are ongoing to identify additional nominees, particularly in the Current or Former Child Care Services (CCS) Families and Licensed Child Care Center categories. Board and Council

members were encouraged to submit nominee recommendations to Mindy Ross, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, or Carrie Pierce, Council Chair.

Members noted that a special called meeting will be required to vote on the nominee slate prior to the February Board meeting.

Motion and Second: Laura made a motion to accept the staff nominations. Mike Snead seconded. Vote: The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Child care fraud investigation updates

Amelia Reeves reported that on January 5, 2026, Governor Greg Abbott issued a directive to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to strengthen anti-fraud measures related to Child Care Services (CCS). TWC subsequently communicated with CCS-enrolled providers and has indicated that no changes to provider payments are anticipated at this time. TWC directed local workforce boards to ensure provider attendance is entered into the Texas Child Care Connection (TX3C) system and to designate staff to investigate potential child care fraud using a high-risk assessment tool under development.

V. CEO Updates, Amelia Reeves

Amelia Reeves provided the following updates:

- Reported on the Rural Pathways Excellence Partnership (RPEP) initiative, which allows rural school districts to partner and share career-focused coursework. Noted that DeLeon ISD and Gustine ISD are participating in a shared model, with DeLeon offering a health care program and Gustine offering an IT networking program; students may attend classes at the partnering district.
- Reported Region 14 ESC's receipt of a Moody Foundation grant with Workforce partnering with the ESC to plan and implement grant activities; ongoing collaboration with rural superintendents and school boards to develop programs aligned with high-demand occupations, using virtual, in-person, or hybrid delivery models.
- Announced award of a \$300,000 Aspen Institute/Trellis grant in partnership with Hendrick Health to evaluate a paid nursing student internship model; an external evaluator will assess return on investment over a six-month period, with intent to replicate the model in other rural hospitals.
- Shared plans to initiate regional meetings with partners to provide program and support information.
- Noted that Board committee assignments have been completed.
- Reported member discussion regarding one-year terms for committee chairs, to be appointed by Chair Williams.
- Reported that she and staff will attend upcoming events, including NAWB, the Texas Rural Broadband Summit, and a rootED Alliance convening.
- Highlighted upcoming and ongoing activities, including the Sweetwater Job Fair on February 19, the start of student internships, and planning for a middle school manufacturing day.

VI Possible Executive Session- None called

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 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:

- Tina Weaver, Aldersgate Methodist Church Academy, Taylor County
- Melinda Alexander, Days of Grace Kids Care, Mitchell County
- Phoebe Vasquez-Hogues, Kidz Town, Brown County
- Katie Chadeayne, My Tribe Childcare, Eastland County
- Tami Criswell, Small World of Learning, Taylor County
- Alicia Sherrill, Clyde Early Learning Center, Callahan County
- Crystal McCoy, Licensed Child Care Home, Stephens County
- Ixel Smith, Licensed Child Care Home, Taylor County
- Judith Metts, CCS Parent

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 Tina Weaver – Aldersgate Methodist Church Academy Melinda Alexander – Days of Grace Kids Care Phoebe Vasquez-Hogues – Kidz Town Katie Chadeayne – My Tribe Childcare Tami Criswell – Small World of Learning Alicia Sherrill – Clyde Early Learning Center
Licensed or registered child care homes participating in CCS	Jennifer Gonzalez – RCCH Crystal McCoy – LCCH Ixel Smith - LCCH
Current or former CCS families	Judith Metts
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